

Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you plan to visit
the Taste of the
Marianas festival
this year?

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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Record Price

Oil futures blasted to a new record
near \$123 a barrel Tuesday.

BUSINESS...Page 15



Int'l Aid

International aid began to trickle
into Myanmar on Tuesday, but the
Irrawaddy delta, where 22,000
people perished, remained cut off
from the world.

ASIA...Page 17



Volcano Erupts

The long-dormant Chaiten volcano
blasted ash some 20 miles into the
Andean sky on Tuesday.

WORLD...Page 18

2 merchant marines allegedly beat up Joyner. **PAGE 5**

PTI to continue work on fiber optic cable project. **PAGE 6**

Emergency regs seek cap on alien worker numbers

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

With President Bush expected to sign
the CNMI immigration bill into law, the

Department of Labor has drafted emer-
gency regulations that will effectively
cap the number of alien workers in the
Commonwealth.

A draft of the public notice of emer-

gency regulations, a copy of which the
Saipan Tribune obtained yesterday,
amends Chapters 3 and 6 of Public
Law 15-108 that came into effect just
this February.

The goal and objective of the emer-
gency regulations is to "require that the
number of alien workers in the Com-
monwealth on the effective date of these

See **EMERGENCY** on Page 4

Muna: End to outages in June

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce received yester-
day a promise from the new executive director of
the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. that load shed-
ding will be a thing of the past come June 2008.

Antonio Muna, who replaced Anthony
C. Guerrero at the helm of the embattled
utility, said that CUC currently produces
36MW of power by using Power Plants 1
and 2 exclusively.

That is below the 41MW demand of
power consumers on Saipan—provided
all working engines in Power Plants 1

See **MUNA** on Page 4

Bishop undergoes lung surgery

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bishop Tomas
A. Camacho un-
derwent surgery
Wednesday to
remove a sec-
tion of his lungs
that had become
affected by lung
cancer.



Camacho

According to

See **BISHOP** on Page 4

San Nicolas backs King as NMC regent

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER



King

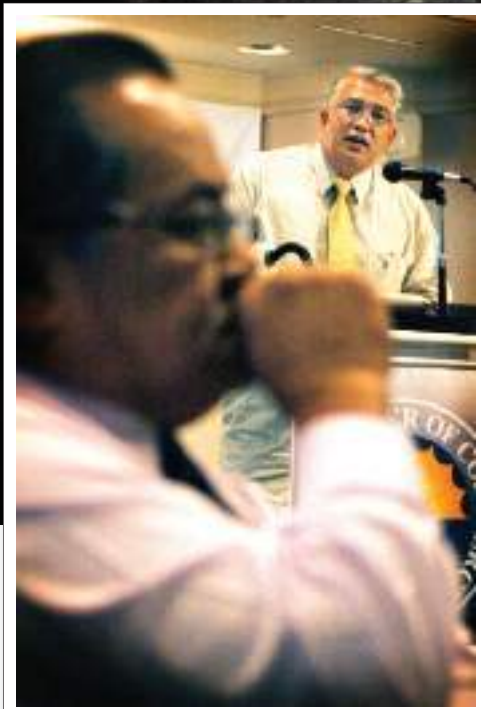
Joey P. San Nico-
las, the former act-
ing chairman of the
Northern Marianas
College Board of
Regents, has rec-
ommended the ap-
pointment of pub-
lic defender Janet
H. King to replace

See **SAN** on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A tenant monitors the amount of electricity recorded on his unit's electric meter at
a residential apartment in Garapan yesterday. Inset, newly appointed Common-
wealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio S. Muna speaks while Finance
Secretary Eloy S. Inos listens during yesterday's Saipan Chamber of Commerce's
general membership meeting at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.



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Local

Muna to evaluate CUC's \$15 million receivables

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Antonio Muna said he is going to evaluate CUC's receivables portfolio to find a solution to the \$15 million in uncollected bills from various customers.

"Receivables management is a matter of ensuring that we can identify what are the performing assets," Muna told the media.

In its recent report to the Legislature, CUC said that residential, government, and commercial customers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota owe the utility agency a total of \$15,428,944.

Of the \$15.4 million, Saipan's

residential and commercial customers are the ones with the biggest arrears: \$13.1 million.

To address these uncollected bills, Muna underscored the need to evaluate the receivables portfolio to know which ones are performing and which ones are not.

Citing a \$15 million receivables as an example, Muna said if they find that only \$5 million of those are performing, then they have to secure the \$5 million and come to terms with the rest.

"Because if they are not performing assets, we need to deal with those in a different manner. We expect to identify some troubled asset management procedure or criteria and address that separately from performing

assets," he said.

"If there is any way to get any kind of performance from it, we will definitely do that. We need to settle and we need to get out and through litigations," Muna said.

He said CUC will probably come up with a set of criteria or program to address the receivables once and for all and get them to where they can be performing or at least resurrected.

"If not, we have to come to terms with the reality that it's just a lost opportunity situation," Muna said.

"I really need to focus on making sure that we don't lose track. I want to make sure that we don't lose economic opportunity going forward," he added.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, second from right, presents Kinki Nippon Tourist Co., Ltd. Overseas Department general manager Makoto Yashiro with a plaque of appreciation for his contributions in making the Rota charter flights possible. Also on hand are Pacific Development, Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura, left, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

Fitial praises the 'mastermind' behind charter flights to Rota

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday welcomed to the Governor's Office Makoto Yashiro, general manager of Kinki Nippon Tourist Co., Ltd. Overseas Department and the "mastermind" behind the successful charter flights to Rota.

"I am very pleased to recognize Mr. Makoto's vital role in developing Rota's eco-tourism market with new charter flights from Japan. I thank him and look forward to the project's continuing success. I believe this new development is of great benefit to the people of Rota and to incoming visitors from Japan," said the islands' chief executive.

Fitial also presented Yashiro

with a plaque of appreciation for his untiring effort and dedication to bringing in 40 charter flights to the Commonwealth's southernmost island. Yashiro was accompanied to Capital Hill by Pacific Development Inc. president Yoichi Matsumura and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. KNT is the mother company of PDI.

Yashiro and Matsumura thanked the governor for his support for the Rota charter flight and volunteered that all passengers of the April 26 and 29 and May 3 charter flights shared their desire to return and enjoy Rota's natural beauty.

Matsumura earlier thanked the contributions made by Yashiro. "He has entered a two-year contract to support this project with

Continental Airlines. He is very happy the Rota charter project is progressing very well."

After the three Rota charters this past Golden Week, Rota will welcome 37 more this June, July, August this year and until April 2009.

The Rota charter flight are expected to bring in some 8,000 tourists to Rota in about a year. KNT has chartered Continental Airlines to bring in the Rota charter flights. The airline is using a 155-seat Boeing 737 aircraft to service the island.

"As excited as we are with the first three flights we will continue to work with the people of Rota, Mayor Joseph S. Inos, and the Marianas Visitors Authority in promoting 'Nature Treasure Island' Rota and the rest of the CNMI," added Matsumura.

'NMC cannot afford to make any mistakes now'

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College only has six months left to meet accreditation standards and come into full compliance before it submit its final report on Oct. 15 to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges' Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

The Oct. 15 report will focus on program review, student learning outcomes, the planning process and a master plan for facilities.

For this purpose, NMC is working on contracting expert consultants to facilitate the college's processes, provide

advice, expertise and guidance to ensure that what NMC is doing is topnotch and will pass the test in terms of Commission approval.

"These consultants are experts in these fields. We have a short time frame and we cannot afford to make any mistakes," NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said during a meeting Tuesday afternoon with the House Committee on Health, Education, and Welfare.

The consultants, who are expected to arrive within the next two weeks, are those who helped the College of the Marshall Islands and its president, Dr. Wilson Hess, overcome the college's situation when WASC placed the

institution on show-cause.

NMC has set aside a \$150,000 grant from the Office of Insular Affairs to help fund the hiring of the consultants.

For the college not to seek the help of these consultants would be "very, very difficult," Fernandez said.

"We do have a director of Institutional Effectiveness but bear in mind that we're all trying to catch up with work for many, many years. The director of Institutional Effectiveness has a tremendous amount of catching up to do, especially in terms of providing the data and reports of the faculty and the need to make be able to make decisions and analysis on the

programs. It's an overwhelming work load," Fernandez said.

The newly hired director of Institutional Effectiveness, William Castro, left his post as chief planner for the Guam Public School System to serve at NMC.

Castro's office facilitates and coordinates the collection, analysis and interpretation of institutional data to support assessment and improvement initiatives and to support institutional planning and decision-making.

Their responsibilities include providing statistical descriptions of the institution; assisting with institutional planning processes; lending support to others' institutional research questions; and consulting with departments and offices about their effectiveness studies.

"We could definitely do all

this on our own. We have the capacity and intelligence at the college; however we just don't have the time. And that is the pressure we are working against," Fernandez said.

She recounted that two days after she received the WASC letter placing the college on show-cause, she emailed AC-CJC president Dr. Barbara Beno for advice and consultation.

"I knew that the time frame was too limited and we don't have the manpower at the college to turn it around in such a short time. It was also recommended as a good idea to [hire expert consultants]. Dr. Hess could not have turned that college around without the help that he got. We need the external facilitation to be able to expedite our process," Fernandez said.

NMC is due to submit its final

report on Oct. 15, 2008. WASC representatives will pay another visit in November to inspect the college. In January 2009, the accrediting commission will make a decision whether to reaffirm the college's accreditation or to terminate it.

"Those are the only two options at this point," Fernandez said.

Work on Bridge Investment staff house to start

Bridge Investment Group is expected to kick off construction of temporary staff housing for its Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums project at week's end.

The first set of containers carrying the materials for the temporary construction of the staff housing arrived on Tinian this past weekend, according to Bridge Investment vice president for CNMI operations Philip Mendiola-Long.

In an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*, Mendiola-Long said that

CNMI Customs and Quarantine cleared the containers on Monday and construction work is scheduled to start later this week.

Mendiola-Long added that the Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums project's first phase will be for the temporary construction of staff housing for the company's workers.

"The housing will be relocated once we enter the fifth 'finishing' phase of the project so that landscaping and groundwork can be completed," he said.

Mendiola-Long anticipates

the temporary staff housing will only be used for about 12-16 months.

Bridge Investment plans to construct a 301-room hotel and casino resort on Tinian as well as 268 condominium rooms in the CNMI's gambling capital. It will be built on 75,000 square meters of land that the company has leased for 55 years.

Mendiola-Long said that they are currently negotiating with the Bank of Guam to offer mortgages on the condominiums to foreign investors. *(Mark Rabago)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

The first two containers carrying material for building staff housing for Bridge Investment Group's Tinian Oceanview Resort and Condominiums project is shown here being unloaded at an undisclosed site on Tinian.

Prizes set for May Car Rally

By **RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN**
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Cash prizes are at stake in this year's *Beach Road Magazine* 2nd Annual Car Rally set for May 24.

Cash prizes will be given to the top three winners: \$250 for first prize, \$200 for second prize and \$150 for third prize.

Other prizes include overnight stays at the Saipan Grand Hotel, various gift certificates, gift bags, and duffle bags.

Beach Road Magazine account manager Susan Marchitti, who is the event's overall coordinator, said she is hoping to gather more prizes to give away to each participating car.

Winners will be announced at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill in the evening of May 25.

Last year, the car rally drew

at least 13 cars. "We're hoping that more will participate this year," Marchitti said.

"We are getting more excited by the day as we continue getting inquiries from interested parties. Surely, this event is something to be a part of. It's an adventure of a lifetime," she added.

The 2nd Annual Car Rally registration is \$15 for each car and space is limited to 60 cars.

Check-in time is at 9am and location is still a secret until the day before the rally. The first car to arrive will be the first to go, and cars will leave at two-minute intervals to avoid traffic. There will be five checkpoints, and a new set of instructions will be given at each checkpoint. Cars are timed from checkpoint to checkpoint, so arriving late at one will not adversely affect your time

during the next section.

Marchitti said the car rally route is still being finalized; however it promises to be even more challenging than last year's.

The Car Rally is one of the most popular motoring events in the United States and Europe. It is not a speeding contest, rather a cross between a scavenger hunt and an IQ test behind the wheel.

Entry forms for this year's rally are still available. They can be found inside *Beach Road Magazine*'s May issue or can be filled out and submitted to the Glimpses of Saipan Office on the Second Floor of the Transpac Business Center in Gualo Rai.

This year's 2nd Annual Car Rally is sponsored by Shell Marianas, Pacific Telecom Inc., Department of Public Safety, American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Aquarius Beach Tower and Budget Car Rental.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS Class of '88 meeting

This is to inform the Marianas High School Class of 1988 that there will be a meeting on Thursday, May 15, 2008, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School, at 6:30pm.

All classmates are also being reminded that the deadline to submit their dues is May 15, 2008. Your attendance at this meeting is very important. We are encouraging each and everyone of you to please come.

For more information you may contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. (PR)

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren and great-grand children of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano "Benito Clan" that the actual date of the reunion that was previously scheduled for July 18-19, 2008, has been pushed forward to July 11-12, 2008.

The next meeting for the "Benito Clan" will be on Wednesday, May 14, 2008, at the residence of Jose M. and Merced T. Taitano in Tanapag, at 6pm.

Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting.

For more information you may contact

Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-6358 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. (PR)

ASVAB testing on Saipan

There will be an ASVAB testing on Saipan on May 17, 2008, at 9am, at the NMC Campus Room A & D.

Please show up 30 minutes prior to testing with an identification card, i.e., passport or driver's license. (PR)

GES starts Kindergarten registration

The Garapan Elementary School would like to announce the opening of registration for Kindergarten students.

Registration will take place in the

main office beginning May 12, 2008, between the hours of 7:30am - 9am and 1pm - 2:20pm. Kindergarten students must be 5 years of age on or before the end of Aug. 31, 2008. Be sure to bring copies of all documents. GES charges a 25-cent fee per copy requested.

Required documents:

- Completed registration form
- Copy of Birth Certificate or Passport
- School Entrance Health Certificate
- Copy of Health Insurance (government, private, Medicaid or student accident insurance accepted)
- Map to residence

GES zoning areas include parts of Puerto Rico, upper/lower Navy Hill, Garapan, Chinatown, Northern Gualo Rai and Northern Beach Road (from the Gualo Rai traffic light to Marianas Eye Institute north).

In recognition of National Teacher Week, the administration also ex-

tends its heartfelt appreciation to all the teachers who make public schools great, especially the outstanding teachers at GES. We acknowledge the time and commitment teachers make in order to bring quality learning opportunities to all our children. Teachers today are asked to perform a variety of roles, some of which no school of education could ever prepare them for. They are facilitators of knowledge, counselors, pseudo-parents, nurses, education reformers as well as learners. They give of themselves beyond what is expected and continue to be resourceful, even in difficult financial times. The teachers at GES and the entire PSS family are an asset to each child they serve and subsequently, they are builders of our community. It is the greatest gift we can give them to realize their dedication and from the bottom of our hearts, offer a "thank you" seasoned with a smile. Thank you teachers! (PR)

PUBLIC FORUM

Rep. Tina Sablan talks to members of the community during a public forum on the State of the Legislature at the Multi-Purpose Center Annex in Susupe yesterday. Topics that were discussed involved solving the Commonwealth's energy crisis, improving transparency in the Legislature, and downsizing the Legislature.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



BISHOP

From Page 1

Dr. Mark Grattan, Camacho's cardiothoracic surgeon at the Straub Hospital in Honolulu, the lung cancer was at an early stage (Clinical Stage 1), with no clinical evidence of spread, "and it was completely removed."

After the surgery, Camacho was alert and in stable condition, according to Dr. James U. Hofschneider, his primary care physician on Saipan.

Camacho would still need to remain in Hawaii for another two weeks in order to recuperate.

Fr. Nonoy Recaido said it is great

news that the bishop is doing very well and is recovering quickly.

"We really need someone like Bishop Camacho who is well directed when it comes to spiritual matters and who is concerned when it comes to people's needs," Recaido said. "He is the kind of person who will not turn his back on you, or turn you down and I think that is the reason why many people are praying for his full recovery."

"Not only is he a father to the Diocese, but a father to the entire community," he added.

Last Tuesday, a special Mass of *em-bida* was held for Camacho, who left for Hawaii to undergo surgery.

While in Hawaii, Camacho underwent medical evaluation and doctors decided that surgery would be necessary.

Recaido said he feels that prayers shared by the community the past two days were heard.

According a statement issued yesterday by Fr. Manual R. Corcuera, Bishop Camacho "wishes to thank all the people in our Commonwealth for their prayers and support."

"The Bishop asks for your continued prayer for all the members in or community who are ill and suffering, their health care providers (doctors, nurses, etc.), and the family members that help care for them."

MUNA

From Page 1

and 2 are fully utilized.

He said the rehabilitation of Power Plant 4 next month would add an extra 10MW to the electrical grid, which would solve the load shedding CUC recently implemented because of engine problems as well as lack of fuel.

"We can't just meet demand right now with what we are producing. With the additional 10MW that we will have online by June, we are looking at 40MW. We

should get closer by June to ensuring that current demand is met sufficiently and avoid load shedding," he said.

"Hopefully come June, the [days of load shedding] will be something that we can put behind us. And then plan for sustaining the load from June [onwards]."

Muna also gave the Chamber more good news when he said that rate relief could even be considered if all goes well for the embattled utility. "Going forward after June [hopefully] would be an increased trend of reliability and hopefully rate relief..."

Muna, who has built a reputation

as Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's trouble-shooter after overseeing the successful receivership of Bank of Saipan, added that he is fully committed to rehabilitating CUC.

"We're moving as fast as we can and moving quickly. I don't look at this job as something I could sit and the chair would conform to my behind. It's a day-to-day situation and it's the way I look at it. There's a sense of urgency here. I'm not going to get comfortable on that chair. I promise you that. We will do the best we can to accelerate the process. We're at work. We're

rolling up our sleeves and that will be the case in the next six to 12 months in resolving the issue as quickly as we can," he said.

The new CUC executive director also promised to provide the Chamber more financial details of the utility's operations—how much it collects and its operational costs—in a month or so.

Muna served as the guest speaker of the Chamber's monthly meeting yesterday held at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. He was accompanied at the meeting by Finance Secretary Eloy Inos, who provided a brief financial re-

port about CUC.

Chamber president James T. Arenovski, meanwhile, said that he is glad his members were able to listen to Muna and his plans for rehabilitating CUC.

"The important thing is there is communication. That they're putting the numbers on the table. We've got good questions about that, we need better numbers and we need more detailed numbers and I've got commitment from Mr. Muna and Mr. Inos to come back and give us more accurate numbers," he said.

persons admitted into the CNMI in immigration classifications 706A, 706B, 706D, 706F, 706I, 706J, 706K, 706L, 706M, 706N, and 706P.

It, however, does not classify as alien workers "persons who enter the Commonwealth as tourists, students, immediate relative not permitted to work, or for investment purposes."

Aside from chapters 3 and 6, all provisions of P.L. 15-108 along with the Commonwealth's Employment Rules and Regulations remain in full force and effect, the draft stated.

EMERGENCY

From Page 1

regulations not be exceeded during the period of 12 to 18 months after the effective date of these regulations."

This would be achieved, according to the draft, by implementing a system for monitoring departing alien workers present in the CNMI as well as arriving alien workers on the regulations' effective date, "so that the Commonwealth can ensure that the number of alien

workers present in the Commonwealth on the effective date of these regulations not be exceeded."

To this end, Labor will publish each month on its website the names of alien workers who have permanently departed the CNMI as well as the names of alien workers who have entered the Commonwealth.

"The department will not allow entry of 'alien workers' in a number that exceeds the number who have departed," the draft added.

The draft of emergency regulations

said businesses could still hire alien workers under three circumstances—through replacements, a point system, and lottery.

It said that a company who has been in business for at least three years and repatriates an alien worker may use the slot, provided it would be filled within 90 days of the alien worker's departure.

Businesses can also take advantage of a point system that gives companies credit for their years of operation, employment of U.S. citizens or permanent resident workers, each dollar above the

minimum wage set for jobs, and for providing Labor with a reasonably accurate forecast of their need for alien workers, among others.

Labor can also conduct a lottery for approximately 10 percent of the available slots each month. The lottery will be limited to small companies (fewer than five workers) that have been in business for fewer than three years and have at least 20 percent citizen and permanent residents in its workforce.

The proposed amendment to PL 15-108 defines "alien workers" as those

2 merchant marines allegedly beat up Joyner

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Police arrested on Tuesday two merchant marines who allegedly beat up local musician Samuel Joyner at the beach area of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

James Lydell Pringle, 27, and Quentin Howard Knights Jr., 23, were arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

After the alleged beating, Joyner drove himself to the Commonwealth Health Center to be treated for abrasions and bruises to the right face and bruises to the left ribcage. He said he probably has a fractured left rib.

The Superior Court initially imposed a \$15,000 cash bail each for the defendants' temporary liberty. At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman allowed each defendant to post a \$1,000 cash bail plus \$9,000 unsecured bond.

Wiseman ordered Pringle and Knights to hire their own lawyers after the court determined they are not eligible for court-appointed counsel.

Police learned of the incident after a CHC nurse reported the

case to police on April 27 at 3:34am, when Joyner was admitted to the emergency room.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that, according to Joyner, he and Amanda Kaipat were looking for Kaipat's sister, Florence Peters, on the evening of April 27.

Upon learning that Peters was in one of the rooms at PIC with Pringle and Knights, Joyner and Kaipat proceeded to the hotel room, where Knights told Joyner that Florence was not in the room.

Kaipat stayed in the room while Joyner proceeded to the beach area to look for Peters and Pringle. After a few minutes of searching, he found the two at the beach area.

Joyner said he approached Pringle and told him he was not supposed to be with Peters. An altercation ensued, during which Pringle allegedly punched Joyner in the face, causing the musician to stumble back.

Joyner fought back and both ended on the ground. During their struggle, Pringle allegedly hit Joyner in the face with an object.

Peters ran to PIC where she called Knights to stop the two from fighting. When the three arrived at the beach, Pringle was allegedly seen choking

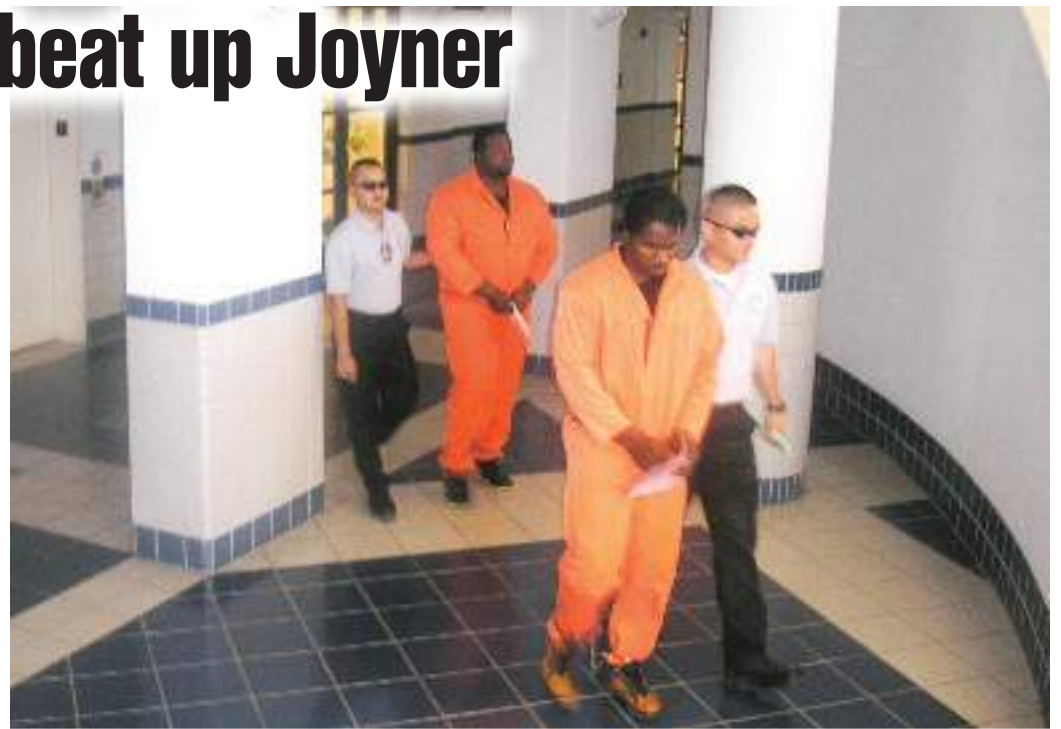
Joyner by the water.

Pringle shouted at Knights to hold Joyner's hands. Knights allegedly grabbed Joyner's hands, at the same time kicking the victim in the head and rib cage. Pringle was also punching Joyner in the head and face.

Florence and Kaipat tried to stop Pringle and Knights, but the two pushed them away and allegedly continued beating up Joyner. The suspects allegedly only stopped when Joyner lost consciousness. They then walked back to their hotel room.

Later, Joyner regained consciousness, walked to his car and drove himself to CHC.

On Tuesday, police served an arrest warrant on the defendants.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Corrections officers escort marine merchants James Lydell Pringle and Quentin Howard Knights Jr. after a bail hearing yesterday on charges they beat up musician Samuel Joyner.

Tikla Brown returns to SAEF

Tikla Brown is back in the CNMI to be assistant teacher and office manager for Saipan American Education Foundation (SAEF) School.

She will also help with the SAEF Summer School and with English as a Second Language programs. As time allows, she will also tutor private ESL students.

Her previous short stay on

Saipan (August 2005-June 2007) was very eventful with participation in many academic, musical, dramatic, and other programs and competitions on island.

"I'm excited to be back to help with the new school," said Brown.

Tikla will be assisting with Music, Art, PE, and subbing for other classes as needed. (PR)

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Boating Safety rescues juvenile, 7 others

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Boating Safety officers rescued a 10-year-old boy from a fishing boat that had sunk in the Garapan lagoon Friday night. The boy's two male adults companions managed to swim back to shore.

All three victims were not injured, but were given medical attention, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

Over the weekend, Boating Safety officers also rescued seven men from two distressed boats on Tinian and Saipan waters.

All seven were in good condition. Their boats were also found in compliance with all boating safety laws and safety

equipment regulations.

In the first incident, DPS spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said that on Friday at 11:42pm, police received a report of a possible missing person in the lagoon located west of the Carolinian Ut in Garapan.

Patrol and Boating Safety officers responded to the scene and learned that a vessel had sunk.

Preliminary investigation showed that prior to the incident, Melvin Camacho, Steve Mettao and the 10-year-old boy had gone on a fishing trip.

On their way back at 10pm, the boat, described as a homemade vessel with paddles, capsize and eventually sank.

The three got separated while in the water. When police arrived,

they learned that Camacho and Mettao had managed to swim back to the shoreline, but the juvenile was still in the water.

Boating Safety officers searched the lagoon where they later found the boy. The minor was safely boarded into the rescue boat.

The officers tried to find the sunken boat, but could not locate it.

The Tinian case was reported to police Friday at 1:09pm.

Boating Safety officers from Saipan immediately launched the *Zodiac III* rescue boat.

While Boating Safety officers were on their way to the location—two miles west of Tinian—the U.S. Coast Guard-664 boat informed them they were with the distressed boat

and will be towing it north to meet with them.

When the two rescuers met, a switch was made. Boating Safety officers towed the boat, a 20-footer fiberglass, back to Smiling Cove Marina. The boat's operator and two passengers were in good condition.

The last incident happened Saturday one mile west of the Palms Resort Saipan and was reported to DPS at 6:18pm.

Ogumoro said the Boating Safety officers on board the *Zodiac III* rescue boat located the distressed boat seven miles west of the resort.

The officers towed the vessel, a Shamrock fiberglass, back to Smiling Cove Marina. The operator and his three passengers were also in good condition.

PTI to continue work on fiber optic cable project

Pacific Telecom Inc announced yesterday of upcoming work to its undersea fiber optic cable from May 29 to June 3, 2008. This means PTI customers may experience longer download times with Internet and DSL during the project.

PTI said it does not anticipate loss of service at any time. "Upon project completion, PTI will complete the upgrade that was begun last year and additional bandwidth and capabilities will be available as our fiber optic cable will be operating with increased capacity," it said in a statement.

PTI's state of the art microwave system will handle all telecommunications traffic during the project and offer redundancy for all telecommunications systems. Since the upgrade last year, additional equipment was purchased to provide increased bandwidth to handle Internet traffic during this time.

Last summer while performing maintenance and upgrading the fiber optic system, a tropical storm forced the NTT Marine crew to stop work and return to port due to safety concerns. After the storm passed, the cable was put back into service, but more cable was required to complete the project. Twenty kilometers of

cable was needed and had to be fabricated in France and transported to Saipan.

"Last year's unexpected storm made it necessary for additional fiber optic cable to be brought to the CNMI so the project could be completed. It takes many months for this type of cable to be produced and for the ship and crew to be scheduled," said Larry Knecht, general manager of PTI. "Since this was the last step before project completion last summer, it will only take a few days to finish over Memorial Day weekend."

NTT World Engineering Marine Corp. (NTT-WE Marine) will be returning to complete this project. NTT-WE Marine will deploy a cable repair vessel to the CNMI for this project.

"PTI remains committed to serve the needs of the CNMI. We will make every attempt to complete the upgrade as quickly as possible in order to minimize any inconvenience this may cause. PTI would like to thank our customers in advance for your understanding as we make important upgrades and improve our service to our customers," the PTI statement said. Customers are asked to call 682-4PTI with questions. **(PTI)**

To report violations of DFW regs, call hotlines

The DFW Enforcement Officers now have hotline numbers that the public can call from Rota, Tinian and Saipan to report illegal fishing or hunting activities.

The two hotline numbers are 888-4917 and 888-4970.

On Rota and Tinian there may be limited coverage, but there should be some coverage. The Enforcement's main office number, 664-6030, can also be accessed from any island.

The DFW Enforcement Hotline should be used when it is believed there is a violation of DFW regulations, such as fishing or hunting without a permit or out of season or in a terrestrial or marine con-

servation area on any island; also, if there is harm being done to a terrestrial protected area, such as setting fires, or inappropriate anchoring in a marine area.

The Saipan Enforcement Officers from the main DFW Office are tasked with enforcing all DFW regulations on all islands, so do not hesitate to call them from any island. You can really help increase the enforcement capability by:

1. Calling immediately
2. Taking down boat registration numbers or vehicle license numbers and/or description of vehicles. All information may be important. **(PR)**

Plumeria firm sues tour agency

The managing company of the Plumeria Hotel has sued a tour agency for allegedly refusing to pay its outstanding balance to the company in the amount of \$8,328.

Noah Saipan Inc., through counsel S. Joshua Berger, sued Sky Tour Agency for breach of contract.

Noah Saipan is the managing company on behalf of Saipan Achugao Resort Members Association, the majority owner of Plumeria Hotel.

The plaintiff asked the Superior Court to order Sky Tour Agency to pay the \$8,328 principal amount, court costs, and pre-judgment interest.

Berger stated in the complaint that beginning in Dec. 2006, the defendant made numerous bookings and reservations for hotel rooms and other food services.

"As of October 2007, and taking into account some payments made, the defendant still has an outstanding balance of \$8,328," he said.

The lawyer said although Noah Saipan has made numerous attempts to settle the account, Sky Tour has remained unresponsive.

"Defendant is therefore in breach of its contract with plaintiff," Berger added. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

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CADA: Yaris outperforms Corolla in April 2008

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The upstart entry level Toyota Yaris outsold the more established Toyota Corolla last month, according to the latest report from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association.

Eight Yaris units were snapped up by buyers in April 2008 to lead the sedan class, while the Corolla was a close second with seven cars sold.

Microl Corp. general manager Douglas Brennan said it was not the first time the Corolla was outperformed by entry class model like the Yaris.

“Popularity of the Corolla goes up and down. It has been a

market staple of Toyota since its creation in 1966. The body styling is redesigned about every five years. If you research sales of Corolla against the Yaris’ and its predecessor, the Echo, you will see that the Echo outsold the Corolla for a few years as well,” he said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

He added that the Yaris is an “entry level” sedan designed to meet the needs of cost-conscious buyers.

“It is a great first car and an equally great car for businesses that are constantly on the move... a ‘runner car.’ It also gets economical gas mileage, averaging about 29 miles per gallon here on Saipan (not an EPA estimate,

those are real owner miles per gallon reported to us).”

Brennan said Microl recently released the 2009 Corolla and it has been catching on quickly.

He, however, added that while Yaris outsold Corolla last month, it was more because of supply than new car owners pinning for the former.

“The main reason the Yaris outsold the Corolla last month was that we ran out of stock on the Corolla. The shipment we just received was presold before they arrived. I ordered an additional five units for this month to fill the current demand,” he said.

Aside from the 15 Yaris and Corolla sedans CADA sold last month, customers also

bought three Nissan Altima and three Kia Rio units last month, while two Hyundai Accent units and two Mazda Mazda 3 units were driven off showrooms last month.

A Honda Civic, a Hyundai Azera, a Nissan Maxima, and a Nissan Sentra unit were also sold last month.

In other classes, the Toyota RAV4 was tops in sports utility vehicles, Toyota Sienna in vans, and the Ford Ranger was *numero uno* among trucks.

Four RAV4 units were sold in April 2008, further underlying customers’ shift to cross-over vehicles.

“Based on that definition, the RAV4 would classify as a cross-over—not quite a truck and not

a sedan. The RAV4 has a lot of the comfort features of a sedan, the high-ground clearance of a truck and unibody construction. On an island like Saipan, with our variable road surfaces and conditions, it is a smart choice for active customers,” said Brennan.

Other SUV purchases last month saw two units of Hyundai Tucson, Nissan Pathfinder, and Nissan Rogue snapped up and one each of Honda CRV, Hyundai Santa Fe, Kia Sportage, and Toyota Highlander bought.

Microl, meanwhile, saw three Toyota Sienna units sold last month, followed by one unit each of Nissan Quest and Honda Odyssey.

“All but one of the Sienna

units was purchased by a business or for business use. The other unit was for a growing family,” said Brennan.

Two Ford Rangers were sold last month, while two buyers also bought one Ford F-150 and a Toyota Tacoma.

After absorbing a 23-percent decrease last month, the three automobile dealers in the Commonwealth saw its profit margins take a hit following a 14-unit drop in new car sales to 55 from 69 new cars disposed of in April 2007.

Joeten Motors is the distributor for Nissan, Ford, Honda, and Kia. Microl Corp. sells Toyota and Chevrolet. Triple J Motors peddles Mazda, Hyundai, Mitsubishi, and Suzuki.

Parade of Books needs more funds

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rienne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rotary Club of Saipan’s Third Annual Parade of Books, which is slated for May 17, is still looking for funds to help the event become an even more successful one.

Rotary Saipan president Patrick Calvo said that when looking at the budget available for the event, “we’re a little bit short on giving prizes to all the participating schools.”

At least 10 schools will be participating in this event.

“We’ve got all the prize money already secured for the first, second, and third but we could still use a couple more,” he added.

At least \$400 is needed to help with the prizes for the event.

“One way or another, we will give every school \$100 for participating. It’s a lot of effort for the kids. They do spend a

lot of time preparing for this competition. It’s the least we can do,” Calvo said.

The Rotary has invited all schools, public and private, to the parade, limiting participation to grade levels 1-4. Advance registration is required. The basic format is for classes and their teachers to choose a storybook for the children to perform. Skits must be fully performed by the participating schoolchildren only.

Rotary said the judging criteria would be based on a 1-10 scale that includes: closeness to time frame, costume depiction, enthusiasm of participants, vocal clarity, and overall adherence to theme.

Last year, Oleai Elementary School snagged the 2007 championship, followed by the Kagman Elementary School, which came in second, and Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, which placed third.



NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS BAR EXAMINATION


APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Northern Mariana Islands Bar Examinations (MBE and Essay) will be administered on Wednesday, July 30, 2008 and Thursday, July 31, 2008. Interested applicants can obtain the application form and necessary information from the Bar Administrator by calling telephone no. (670) 236-9800, visiting the judiciary’s website at <http://www.justice.gov.mp>, or by writing to P.O. Box 502165, Saipan, MP 96950.


All applications and required fees must be submitted to the Bar Administrator no later than May 30, 2008.

Dated this 2nd day of May, 2008.

NORA V. BORJA
Bar Administrator
Supreme Court



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950



NOTICE OF ORDERS ENTERED

LABOR CASES AND AGENCY CASES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008, first notice
Monday, May 5, 2008, second notice

PARTIES IN THE FOLLOWING LABOR CASES AND AGENCY CASES: An order has been entered by the Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor in each of the labor cases and agency cases listed below. All claims, including all claims for money damages, all claims for eligibility for transfer, and all requests for the imposition of fines, have been adjudicated. If not previously served, all persons listed in this notice are served with notice of the issuance of the order as of the date of second publication. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer’s order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A party in whose case an order has been issued by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or by mail on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

Case No.	Party
CAC 04-035-07	American Lagente Corporation
LC 06-336	American RF Corporation
CAC 97-092	Amir
LC 07-281	BFJ Corporation
LC 05-353	BQF Services, Inc.
LC 07-283	BQF Services, Inc.
LC 06-215	Cabrera, Rosalie
CAC 08-114-03	Cachuela, Marieta B.
LC 05-061	Cado, Marlene V.
CAC 08-123-03	Castro, Dewayne P.
LC 06-220	Concorde Garment MFG Corp.
LC 05-061	Dela Cruz, Dionesia S.
LC 07-192	Dela Rosa, Elinor
LC 04-335	Dragon Corporation
LC 07-335	Dragon Corporation
LC 07-323	Dragon Corporation
LC 05-047	Far Ocean Corp. dba Diamond Karaoke
CAC 08-123-03	Gapas, Arsenio
LC 04-219	Gautam, Kamala
CAC 08-128-03	Gonzales, Sheryl C.
LC 05-350	Grace International, Inc.
LC 05-327	Greate Corporation
LC 07-052	Guan, Yanwei
LC 05-286	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.
LC 05-288	Hyunjin Saipan, Inc.
LC 08-010	Jaung Sig Kim
LC 07-274	K.S. Chang Corporation dba I Mart
LC 07-337	Kaipat, Celina C.
LC 07-258	L & S Apparel
LC 07-328	L & S Apparel
LC 07-258	Li, Yuan Fu
LC 07-328	Li, Yuan Fu
LC 05-069	Liya Import and Export Corp.
LC 06-238	Long Teng Corporation
CAC 98-101-04	Lozano, Nelia D. dba Seiko Employment Services
LC 07-150	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-151	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-256	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-257	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-258	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-259	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-260	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-261	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-273	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-328	LY&Z American Corporation
LC 07-365	LY&Z American Corporation
CAC 08-077-03	Marianas Fast Food, Inc.

Case No.	Party
LC 03-119	Marianas Garment MFG. Corp.
LC 05-290	Marianas Garment MFG. Corp.
CAC 04-063-11	Marianas Hotel Services Co., Ltd.
LC 05-142	Maribeth Corporation
LC 05-146	Micro Pacific, Inc.
LC 05-003	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 05-030	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 05-404	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-075	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-111	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 07-306	Mirage Saipan, Ltd.
LC 06-310	MZ Corporation
LC 07-279	Neo Fashion, Inc.
LC 07-224	Pacific Lucky Corporation
LC 05-061	Pangelinan, Federico P. II
LC 07-227	Pangelinan, Mariano
LC 06-215	Parial, Aurora
LC 05-289	Park’s Professional Corporation
CAC 08-112-03	Piao Investment Corporation
LC 07-368	Printwell, Inc.
LC 07-265	Ray’s Lawn Care & Maintenance
LC 05-112	Reyes, Ruth P. dba L Vira Fashion
LC 05-051	Rifu Apparel, Inc.
LC 05-098	RR Corporation
CAC 08-114-03	Sablan, Vincent P.
LC 05-061	Sako Corporation
CAC 08-117-03	Salalila, Juan B.
LC 07-371	Santos, Lorylinda C.
LC 07-334	Soleman dba Barracks Rental
LC 06-357	Song Xu Development Corporation
LC 05-061	Taraya, Rosalinda R.
LC 05-131	Top Fashion Corporation
LC 05-082	United International Corporation
LC 07-200	United International Corporation
CAC 97-092	Victory Int’l Corporation
LC 06-345	Walvo Enterprises Corporation
LC 07-241	World Apparel, Inc.
LC 07-052	WZ Corporation
CAC 04-035-07	Xu, Jun
LC 06-345	Xu, Qian Jun
LC 07-052	Xu, Qianjun
LC 07-366	Yoo Sung Embroidery
LC 07-156	Yuuhei Corporation
LC 07-242	Yuuhei Corporation
LC 05-249	Zhang’s Corporation
LC 05-082	Zhou, Hailan

A vision for a cancer-free CNMI

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the CNMI. Cancer has taken the lives of many loved ones. The vision is a cancer-free CNMI.

The Commonwealth Cancer Association has made tremendous strides in program activities for 2007.

To date, three DVD productions have been and continue to be aired on cable TV KSPN Channel 2, bringing cancer awareness to at least 5,000 viewers. A minimum of 100 persons have received a copy or two of the various cancer education publications at community events and health fairs.

CCA has also supported other community organizations,

aiming to increase awareness to a larger audience. These include the cooking show, Kick Butts Day, Great Marianas Smokeout, HPV Campaign, and many others, impacting the lives of approximately 7,500 residents.

Support for cancer patients is still the organization's priority. Beds, wheelchairs, shower commodes, oxygen concentrator, chairs and CADD pumps are a small list of equipment items that are available for all cancer patients. Currently 12 patients are assisted with nutritional supplements.

Assistance is also provided to cancer patients for items associated with diagnosis, treatment, comfort measures or

other issues associated with malignant disease; as well as wound care products, Pampers-style products for incontinence and supplies for care of ostomies. Prostheses requests for wigs, breast, limbs, etc. are accepted.

The greatest achievement for CCA and the CNMI Cancer Control Coalition is the application and award of \$250,000 in grant funds for a five-year period. The grant will enable the CCA and Coalition to prevent cancer incidence through educational programs; detect cancer at the earliest stage possible; promote access to quality comprehensive cancer care; optimize the quality of long-term care for cancer sur-

vivors; monitor cancer data; and develop and support policies and initiatives

"We believe that more education and awareness is needed for our community to take an active role in preventing cancer for themselves and their family," said Benjamin Seman, CCA chairman. Referring to the CNMI Cancer Control Plan, Seman said, "Achieving cancer prevention and control activities, must involve many sectors of the community, including community based organizations, social groups, local public health agencies, local government, non-governmental organizations, as well as regional and international partners." (CCA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 08, 2000

Lawyers begin probe of PCB

Texas-based lawyers began their investigation in Tanapag over the weekend in connection with the planned lawsuit against federal officials who may be held responsible for the polychlorinated biphenyl contamination in the northern coastal village in Saipan. With the absence of scientific study to prove the effect of PCB on humans, the lawyers face an uphill battle to prove that negligence of federal authorities have caused damage to public health.

Mandarin Air brings hope to NMI's tourism industry

It was a flight most people thought would never come in at least a couple of months after it canceled what could have been its maiden air transport service to Saipan Monday last week. This is the reason why Commonwealth officials found themselves crumbling to prepare for the arrival of Mandarin Airlines executives Friday night when they received a faxed message from the Taiwan-based carrier that its aircraft will be landing on the Saipan International Airport a few hours later.

CUC hits back at Lang

Responding to accusations leveled by former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday turned the table against its chief critic as it blamed him for the failure by the government to pay its utility bills. It also warned that his suggestion to disconnect power service to public offices would paralyze much of the CNMI as government operations are vital to social and business activities on the islands.

May 08, 2001

Schools asked to teach Nippongo

English is fine but in order to attract more tourists from its main market of Japan, local schools should include more Nippongo classes in its curriculum. Marianas Visitors Authority Chair Dave M. Sablan lamented the fact that only a handful of local residents have the ability to speak the Japanese language.

No afternoon delight, please

When this man says no to sex, he means no. And he stands by his decision even if it meant attacking her girl. So when the girlfriend insisted she is not taking no for an answer, he turned violent. All she wanted was a "sweet" afternoon with him. She ended up calling the police and he was arrested for assault and battery.

Teno OKs amnesty for delinquent taxpayers

In what appears to be a desperate move to refill strained government coffers, the CNMI government yesterday paved the road for delinquent tax payers to file their returns without penalties. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed House Bill 12-345 into Public Law 12-51 which gives remiss taxpayers amnesty from penalties if they file their returns during a 90-day period.

May 08, 2002

Kennedy consults NMI on new takeover bill

Far from being convinced to hold off actions on any takeover bills for the CNMI, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy is actually about to introduce anew his Fair Minimum Wage Act bill but, this time around, he has expressed willingness to allow the Commonwealth to have an input into the measure. Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio disclosed this in a letter to House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider dated May 1, where he said he had just received word from Kennedy's office about the planned reintroduction of the Fair Minimum Wage Act.

Bank assets surpassed \$600M mark

Bank deposits dropped 1.65 percent by end-March 2002 to \$589.9 million from the previous quarter's \$599.8 million, according to a government document that compiles reports submitted by banking institutions in the Commonwealth. This, as loans increased by 3.27 percent reaching \$285 million during the January-March 2002 period compared with \$276 million in the October-December 2001 period, which indicated modest recovery in overall revenue-generating activities of CNMI banks.

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- Tournament starts @ 8:00pm
- One re-buy available for the first three blind levels; player must bust
- Play will cease at approximately 1am and will continue the following day

Sunday:

- Tournament resumes @ 2:00pm & continues until Last Man Standing
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trouble in Georgia

It's tough to pay attention to wars that haven't yet broken out in places we can't even spell. But Russia and Georgia are moving precariously close to war over the separatist Georgian republic of Abkhazia, a gorgeous strip along the Black Sea where Georgian leaders would like to see rows of swanky tourist hotels. But that won't happen if Russian President Vladimir V. Putin has a say in it—and unfortunately, he does.

The Georgians have been aggressively pro-Western, and they believe (probably correctly) that Putin wants to punish them for their attempt to join NATO. All Putin needs to do is to give Germany, the swing vote on NATO expansion, an excuse to keep rejecting Georgia. Provoking Georgia into fighting with Abkhazia would do the trick nicely.

Whatever his motives, Putin's provocations have been nothing short of outrageous. Last month, Tbilisi charges, a Russian MiG-29 shot down a Georgian drone over Abkhaz airspace. Because Abkhazia is within Georgia's borders, that would be an act of war by Russia. Moscow denies it, and even suggests that the drone must have been downed by a MiG from a NATO country. If that turned out to be true, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer vowed to eat his necktie.

Next, Putin sent a parade of "peacekeepers" in armored personnel carriers down the streets of the Abkhazian city of Sukhumi last week. Russia is allowed to have up to 3,000 peacekeepers in Abkhazia to enforce a 1994 cease-fire between Georgia and its restive territory. But it sent more troops last week without informing Tbilisi, in violation of its mandate.

Georgia is fighting dirty as well. It has vowed to block Russia's ascension to the World Trade Organization, something any single member of the exclusive international club is empowered to do. That has rightly infuriated Moscow. Keeping Russia out of the WTO is certainly not in the U.S. interest. And it's an invitation to Moscow to accept a standing offer from Iran to join forces and form an anti-Western trade bloc of their own.

Georgia is aggrieved. But if it ever does expect to join NATO, it must behave better than Putin. Its heavy-handed tactics in Abkhazia have fueled the separatist movement, and its last presidential election was a sham. Washington should keep putting pressure on its Georgian ally to hold a clean parliamentary election this month, seek a peaceful settlement with Abkhazia and drop its WTO threat. In return, Putin needs to show he respects the sovereignty of his formerly Soviet neighbors—whether they join NATO or not.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



OLD MOTHER HUBBARD and HER CUPBOARD in 2008

Shocking

When Saipan's only movie theater closed its doors several weeks ago, the governor's brilliant solution was to simply raise ticket prices. It's only obvious that the higher prices will generate more revenue, and therefore cover the cost of goods and operations, and leave a little profit as an incentive to keep the doors open. However, it is also obvious that there will be less moviegoers because less people will be able to afford the price of a ticket, which means the prices would need to be continually raised. The outcome of this cat and mouse game would eventually leave a dozen or so people on island who could afford a \$700 ticket to watch a new release.

We can just imagine the shock and awe on your face as you opened the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday to read that the already outrageous power rates are being doubled! Buying a movie theater ticket is considered a discretionary expense, and people have other options to get their entertainment fix for the week. Utilities, on the other hand, are considered a necessity, even though many have involuntarily stopped using electricity.

It didn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the short-term solution for the ailing utilities monopoly was to raise its rates to cover fuel and operational expenses. So when the government's top bean counter stepped in to lend his expertise as the newly appointed executive director, it wasn't too difficult to predict that his simply brilliant solution would be to raise the rates—and boy, did he.

Let's consider this simply brilliant solution for other aspects of our life. The College could double their tuition rates for local and international students, grocery stores could double their prices on goods, car dealers could drastically increase the sticker price of an automobile, and gasoline stations could drastically increase their prices each time the price of oil goes up (oops, they already do that). What would be the outcome if all businesses and government agencies apply this simply brilliant solution? It would eventually leave a dozen or so people on island who could afford to live here. The short-term financial solution for CUC will have a long-term social and economic impact that may be irreparable.

Let's consider the case of privately owned business owners who are trying to eke out a living by reducing their hours, turning their air conditioners off and running fans, or laying off people so they can operate on razor-thin profit margins. Many have had thousands of dollars in damage to electronic equipment because of the frequent blackouts and power surges, and they can't even afford to replace the equipment. The news of even higher utility rates may be the last straw for many as they consider the feasibility of doing

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



business on Saipan.

Consider Joe and Jane Average as they budget their expenses to the penny to try and eke out their existence. The higher fuel and power rates will eventually be tacked onto the goods and services they can barely afford now. Many thousands of dollars in damaged computers, air conditioners and other electronic equipment have not been replaced or repaired because they can't afford it. The news of grossly higher utility rates may be the last straw for them as they consider the drastic drop in the quality of life in paradise.

So what's the long-term solution? Unfortunately, it should have been done years ago and the longer the CNMI has waited has proportionally squared its difficulty to implement. The price of oil is destined to go up, which means the price of fuel, electricity, and all goods and services will continue to rise. Years ago when there was more money to explore other options, alternative energy sources should have seriously been considered. Some people have suggested using coal, nuclear energy, wave or wind power to turn generators. Each of these would lessen our dependence on OPEC and could provide reliable power. The big problem now is that it's going to take a whole lot of money to consider these options, which is what CUC and the government is short of at present and future.

Will privatizing CUC be the solution? A private company will also go over the books and try to operate the company by the numbers—which doesn't equate to lower utility bills, unless they drastically lower operating expenses (i.e., lay off a lot of people). A private company, however, may have the capital and expertise to switch to alternative fuels, replace generators with more efficient ones, and provide management stability. Any long-term changes will take months or years to implement, if—and that's a big IF—action is taken right away. In the mean time, more and more people will be spending their evenings sitting in the dark because their power was disconnected, which is shocking.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Steam-powered electric generating plant: It's time to consider it

Editor's Note: The following article first appeared in the Saipan Tribune on May 5, 2005. It has been substantially revised since that date.

I'm told the government-owned power plants consume 10 million 200 thousand gallons of oil a year.

Oil prices will never decline and we can expect to see continuous increases in all oil using activities and electric rates in particular. This has been true since the first oil crises 35 years ago in 1973. That was the year the U.S. government stated its policy of becoming oil independent. Since that date all of the Pacific islands have experienced spiraling costs. I would like to suggest that the CNMI consider undertaking a first phase "pre-feasibility study" to determine the plausibility for the conversion, particularly for Saipan, of government-owned, oil-fired generators to that of coal burning, steam turbines.

Should the results look promising, then the second phase could be undertaken to prepare the full-fledged detailed financial and economic analyses to determine the cost and benefits to determine if such would be viable over the long-term.

With oil you get two things: fumes up the stack and power. With coal you get three things: fumes up the stack, power and cinders, which are a useful aggregate for construction blocks and other uses. Coal mines can be purchased which have recoverable reserves that would last the island for many decades, perhaps even one-half century or longer. The state of West Virginia, for example, with its thousands of privately owned coal mines, has enough recoverable reserves of coal to meet the world demand for coal for the next 400 years. It's possible to buy a coal mine but you will never be able to purchase a Middle East oil well.

Until the late 1950s almost all electric power in the world was produced by coal-fired, steam turbine driven generators. When Middle East oil fields were developed and oil prices were \$2.50 a barrel everyone switched to this cheaper fuel and away from the use

of coal. Now oil prices are around \$120 a barrel and it's worthwhile to consider returning to the use of coal with due consideration given the environment since the cinders from spent coal will leach an acid into the soil and this most certainly must be mitigated. Also, the discharge from the stacks into the atmosphere will have to be controlled by new, existing technology called "scrubbers" which meet EPA Clean Air Act standards. This equipment cleans the vaporous discharge as it's released into the environment. Ideally the generating plant should be situated to take advantage of the prevailing winds and be located adjacent to or near the port to facilitate the off-loading of coal.

Following the completion of the pre-feasibility study any recommended second phase leading to the detailed cost - benefit study would have to be comprehensive in scope and thus it will be expensive and would have to be conducted by professional consultants experienced in this type of power generation. The cost of coal delivered to Lower Base, port and construction of the discharge terminal, storage areas, the power plant and operation would all have to be analyzed. That this endeavor would be both complicated and controversial, particularly on the part of existing oil producers and brokers, is a certainty. It all boils down to economic self-interest.

As mentioned previously in these articles, a coal-fired generator is one possible solution that may well be reasonable and viable if the stranglehold of "environmental purists" can be broken and "trade-offs" accepted.

From what I have been able to determine the price of coal at some mine portals is \$60 to \$65 per ton depending upon the ash content, BTU and other factors. The question to be posed being how that price per ton equates in terms of electricity production as compared to one-half barrel of oil at \$120 per barrel? That important information together with the added cost of transportation from the mine to Saipan; the amortization of the equipment and other financing details must first be determined to evaluate

eral opinion pieces published in a local paper (enclosed) suggesting such an analysis for substituting coal for oil, unfortunately to my knowledge no local political leader has been sufficiently motivated to look into the matter. Thus I'm taking the bull by the horns to follow through with what I believe to be the next step, namely, introduce the problem to those firms who might possibly be interested and who can examine the concept in principle for its viability. In this regard I would be sincerely appreciative if you would be kind enough to provide me with the following information: name(s) of U.S. manufacturers of steam turbines; name(s) of U.S. engineering design firms experienced in power plant design; and name(s) of U.S. consulting firms capable of evaluating the cost-benefit of the use of coal for power generation on the island of Saipan.

Of course, any project substituting coal for oil to operate steam turbine generators is not a simple solution as the island's seaport would probably need some measure of modification for unloading and a storage area would be required to bunker the coal. Still another reason for a detailed financial feasibility analysis to evaluate the cost and benefit characteristics of such a proposed project.

Should you have sufficient interest in the issue as I have outlined and reviewed the enclosed briefing material and feel afterward that you would be willing to meet with me to discuss the matter further, I would be most grateful and could meet you in Montgomery anytime at your convenience.

Please feel free to distribute the material and this letter to whomever you believe might possibly have an interest in performing such a study with the request that they contact me if more information is required.

Meanwhile, thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

William H. Stewart
Economist

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.



the project's final viability.

Interior has sponsored several investment promotion missions with limited results. One wonders why the organizers of such visits never considered the potential investment in steam turbines? Perhaps it was never suggested. In my opinion, as based on existing conditions in the NMI, no investment of any substantial size is likely to happen in the Commonwealth until a reliable power supply can be made available at a reasonable cost to project investors. Some knowledgeable experts have expressed the belief that oil could reach \$200 a barrel in a couple years. What then?

As mentioned in another article on a different subject I find it surprising that Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, an agency that professes to want to assist the NMI, hasn't indicated an interest in supporting the funding for an examination of the feasibility for such power generating conversion. Equally surprising is the apparent lack of interest in the past on the part of the central government and the Legislature in even considering such a request, considering some of the most powerful men in the U.S. Senate are from coal producing states. One who comes to mind is powerful Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.). The constituency of many U.S. senators consider coal as tourism is considered for the NMI—it keeps them in office. Coal is mined in 27 states. That's 54 voting senators in a body of 100—you figure it out. You may have a friend in Jesus but you need them in Washington as well.

Almost 50 percent of all electric power generated in the country is produced from coal, followed by 19.3 percent by nuclear and 18.7 percent from natural gas. All power generated in the U.S. from coal now meets EPA's environmental emission regulations of the Clean Air Act.

As near as I can figure the equivalent of steam generated electricity sent out from one ton of coal is 2.65 MWh. I don't know the Saipan CIF cost per ton of coal since it depends upon such things as the quality, i.e., BTU content, the quantity purchased at any particular time, port of export and other factors too numerous to list here-in. If the Legislature doesn't encourage such an analysis, it could be the death of the NMI as we have come to know it and the return to the days of the Trust Territory, which some feel is already rapidly taking place.

Prioritize education!

To the House of Representatives:

It is with such disappointment and a disgrace that some members of our legislative body have sought to produce a bill to take funds away from our students who are away from home determined to earn some type a professional degree so that one day after they have completed their educational goals may return back home and educate our future generations with what they have learned abroad.

We have students who are attending the University of Guam and in the U.S. mainland under the SHEFA Scholarship program, which is at this point enormously worried as to what will happen if \$500,000 is taken away from SHEFA for the payment of salaries of certain government employees and for other purposes.

Taotao Tano is urging all of you to think back to all your platforms while seeking elected office and ask yourselves this important question: Is education the No. 1 priority or not? In every campaign drive or forums that we voters of the Commonwealth heard from, majority of you prioritized education yet today Congressman David Apatang is doing the opposite and is seeking to re-appropriate and hamper our students' continued higher education.

The reprogramming, re-appropriation and amendment of laws need to stop because this is why we are all in the current predicament we now face. The habits of the past leadership must be stopped immediately. It is such an embarrassment and disgrace that an elected leader whom everyone respects is actually the author of H.L.B. 16-9. It is our hope that all of you our elected leaders understand the significant damage to be endured if such a bill is entertained or enacted.

Leave education alone, but support education 110 percent for it was a priority in each of your platforms.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano

Letters to the Editor

Taking the bull by the horns

The following letter describing a concept for generating island power from coal may be of interest to some on island as a long-term permanent solution that should be evaluated without delay. The accompanying Opinion piece appeared three years ago in an earlier op-ed. At that time it was hoped that some officials would be motivated enough to pursue the issue to determine if my idea has any merit. I'm not aware that any action was taken. Therefore, I'm going to attempt to find out if the concept might enlist a funding source for the study (without my participation). I'll report on the results later.

Bill Stewart
www.saipanstewart.com

■■■

May 6, 2008
Dr. Charles Bayless
Campus Provost
West Virginia University
Institute of Technology
405 Fayette Pike
Montgomery, West Virginia 25136

Subject: Preparation of documentation in support of grant financing from U.S. government for purpose of evaluating the cost of power generation from coal on the Pacific island of Saipan.

Dear Dr. Bayless:

In my search for information concerning the possibility of substituting (or scrapping) oil-fired electric generators on the island of Saipan for coal-fired steam turbines, your name is always mentioned as the expert who might be of assistance in my quest in identifying contacts who are knowledgeable with such projects.

By way of this letter I would like to intro-

duce myself, and what I hope to achieve. I am not suggesting this potential project for any personal monetary gain on my part or any assignment which might eventually occur—I seek no remuneration of any kind.

It is said "one person can make a difference"—and I simply want to help some people on a Pacific island who are suffering as a result of the unbelievable high cost of electricity generated from imported fuel oil more fully described on the attached project sheet.

My idea concerns the possible replacement of oil-fired generators on Saipan with coal-fired steam turbine generators if considered financially feasible and acceptable to the local government (which is an unknown at present). The project must obviously be based on a thorough economic cost-benefit analysis, hopefully, to be accepted for grant financing from an agency of the U.S. government.

The situation on the island of Saipan is quite serious as unreliable power and the exorbitant cost of fuel oil is wrecking the economy. Business are closing because of daily power outages, government revenues have seriously declined impacting adversely upon public health and safety. Many long time residents are leaving. Recent rates were announced at \$0.357 to \$0.448 per kWh for residential and \$0.448 per kWh for commercial. Unbelievable!






I believe that the financing for such a feasibility analysis might be available from the U.S. government in the form of a grant. However, at this time no funds have been officially requested nor identified for such an analysis—at least to my knowledge.

Furthermore, I have no connection with the island government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands nor can I speak for it. Having written sev-

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼75°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲85 ▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82 ▼73

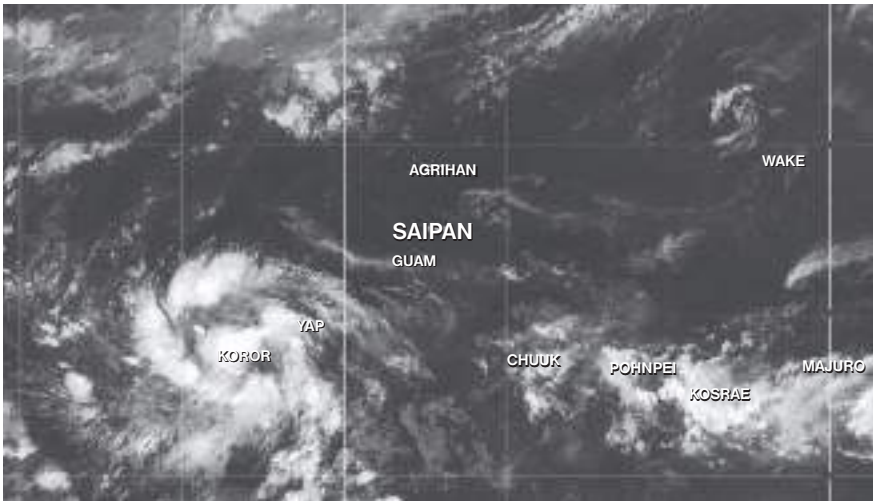
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲63 ▼57
Beijing	Sunny	▲74 ▼56
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲81 ▼72
London	Cloudy	▲73 ▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲70 ▼56
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲92 ▼78
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲66 ▼54
Miami	Cloudy	▲85 ▼75
New York	Thundershowers	▲75 ▼58
Osaka	Cloudy	▲68 ▼53
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲73 ▼55
Pusan	Cloudy	▲72 ▼54
Rome	Sunny	▲73 ▼50
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲58 ▼37
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲60 ▼48
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲68 ▼51
Tokyo	Showers	▲68 ▼52
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲77 ▼60

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:43AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:25AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
4:00PM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
11:20PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2008

Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches eastward from 7N130E through a developing circulation centered just west of Koror near 7N133E then southeastward to end at EQ153E. This circulation is currently the subject of a tropical cyclone formation alert. See JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN21 PGTW. Winds converging into the center are producing numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms in an area bounded by a line from 4N130E to 13N130E to 10N138E to 4N138E back to 4N130E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms extend farther out on the south side of the circulation and are occurring north of a line from 2N130E to EQ139E. Trade-wind convergence coupled with upper-level divergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in an extensive area including Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae states and the southern portions of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. This area is located within 100 miles of a line from 7N151E to 6N160E and also within 150 miles of a line from 6N160E to 4N173E to 5N180. Convergent trade-winds are combining with upper-level divergence to cause scattered showers near Iwo To or north of a line from 22N133E to 24N144E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51AM	6:36PM
Friday	5:50AM	6:37PM
Saturday	5:50AM	6:37PM
Sunday	5:50AM	6:37PM
Monday	5:49AM	6:38PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:04AM	9:44PM
Friday	9:11AM	10:45PM
Saturday	10:16AM	11:38PM
Sunday	11:17AM	
Monday	12:14PM	12:25AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3	Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				

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A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMU'T SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
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- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Letter to the Editor

MINA wants open dialog to continue!

When the news that the Pew Charitable Trust was interested in helping to facilitate the creation of a "Mariana Trench Marine National Monument," it generated considerable public debate in the community, the halls of the Legislature and in the columns of the local newspapers. The first letters and reactions were emotional and factually incomplete, but as more information reached the public and government officials, the merits and complexities became better understood. As we wrote in our first letter, we wish to keep the discussion going, but time is now very limited.

Pew, through their Ocean Legacy program, is in the process of trying to facilitate large areas of the earth to provide ecosystem-scale conservation by the creation of large marine area protected reserves. This is not only within the United States, but internationally. Since Pew is a non-governmental organization, it has no management and certainly no jurisdiction in the operations of national marine protected areas, parks, reserves, monuments and sanctuaries or other governmental marine designations. The naming of this as the "Pew National Monument" by earlier letters was an attempt at trying to focus this as an "us versus them" issue. In fact, should a marine conservation area of this size and magnitude be created, the people of the Commonwealth will be able to determine a name appropriate to our cultural and natural heritage and just as important, the operational regulations of said marine conservation area. As we mentioned in our previous letter, we hope to keep the focus on the merits of creating a marine conservation area.

The Antiquities Act of 1906

Pew's current involvement in the creation of a marine conservation area can be compared to a fishing venture seeking the Commonwealth's fisheries resources, or a mining company wishing to extract mineral resources. However, instead of

seeking expertise and financing from private and foreign sectors, the source of funding and expertise is the federal government. (A further discussion for what industries or economic activities will be discussed in a subsequent letter.) It should be noted that the federal government currently provides significant funding for personnel and the operation of the Commonwealth's natural and cultural resources agencies including the Fish & Wildlife Division, the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management, and the Historical Preservation Office. This relationship has been ongoing for more than 20 years.

In order for the federal government to become involved in a marine conservation area in the most northern islands, it needs a mechanism to do so. The mechanism that is currently being proposed is the Antiquities Act of 1906 through the creation of a national monument, in this case a "marine monument." The Antiquities Act has been one of the most far-reaching legislative Acts in the nation's history in terms of designating and managing land of significant natural and cultural value.

At the end of the 19th century, the westward expansion of the United States had run its course and the vast open spaces of the west were now being negatively impacted by activities such as agriculture, lumber, hydroelectric dams and mining. Along with that, many Native American sacred and cultural sites and artifacts were being pillaged, vandalized and illegally collected, in effect destroying America's cultural heritage! Something needed to be done to give effective protection to the loss of significant parts of the nation's heritage. The Antiquities Act was therefore created, giving the Executive Branch of the federal government powers to protect sites throughout the nation.

This Act allowed the President to make a proclamation setting aside areas under federal jurisdiction and designating it a "monument." As stated in the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C.

431-433), Section 2: *"That the President of the United States is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected: Provided, That when such objects are situated upon a tract covered by a bona fied unperfected claim or held in private ownership, the tract, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the proper care and management of the object, may be relinquished to the Government, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept the relinquishment of such tracts in behalf of the Government of the United States."*

The first president to use this authority was President Theodore Roosevelt. Before leaving office in 1909 he signed proclamations establishing the first national monuments. The first monuments created were primarily to preserve historic and prehistoric structures and objects, and then shortly thereafter "other objects . . . of scientific interest" included one of the most remarkable and greatest geological land formations in the world, the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Since then, 124 national monuments have been created.

The time to act is now!

While designated waters that are currently under federal ownership can become a national monument simply by signing a presidential proclamation without local government concurrence and consultation, in reality, these decisions are circumspect and conducted in a deliberate fashion with regard to local jurisdictions and in the best

interest of protecting valuable and significant cultural or natural resources. One should take the time to review areas that are now national monuments and why they needed protection. The list of Antiquities Act monuments includes some of the most famous and significant national parks and wonders of the world. The CNMI has that potential with a marine national monument almost as significant as the Grand Canyon! A discussion of the many resources that a Marianas monument would protect will be featured in a subsequent letter.

It should be noted, however, that the current President will not sign a proclamation unless there is significant interest and support from the local community and government for creating such a monument. The proposed Marianas monument is competing against many other sites which are actively seeking national monument designation. (Ironically, Pew must also lobby the Bush administration for a CNMI marine monument!)

Historically, most national monument designations have come at the end of presidential terms, and President Bush will be out of office early next year. Time is rapidly running out, as the elections for a new president will be held this November. The next chance at a CNMI marine monument may be years away or may cease to exist come January, when a new president will have a different set of priorities, initiatives and issues.

In the next few weeks, the federal administration will be weighing its options on proclaiming the next marine monument. Do we dare miss out on one of the most important opportunities to ever come to the CNMI?

Next letter: Governing Management. This presents a great opportunity to show a sterling example of a Commonwealth and federal partnership. The nature of this partnership has yet to be determined and the Commonwealth need not consent to an agreement which is not in their best interests.

Chuck Sayon

Interim Executive Director
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance
<http://www.minapacific.org>

Mother's Day Brunch

And a Mom & Me Fashion Show



Kids Games and Tournament in our Game Room Consoles
Live Band Entertainment at Hibiscus Hall and more...

Plus Prizes for Raffles
Specialty Booths
Kids Card Booth -
Prepare your own Mothers Day card...

May 11, 2008
\$25.00 - Adults
\$12.50 - Children 5 to 11 years old
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Mai and The Bund Opens at 11am

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or 233-6414

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Commonwealth I Sankattan Siha Na Islas Mariana
Ofsinan I Gubietno
Dipåttementon I Tano’ Pupbliku

NOTISIA POT PLANON MA-ATKILAN TANO PUBLIKO

Segun i tineteka na patte gi Lai Publiko 15-2, i Depattamenton Tano ha publrika planon para uma-atkila tano publiko guine giya Notte Marianas. Todo membron publikon iya Marianas libre man-nahalom opinion pot este na plano 'sino otro hinasso pot priniponen atkilon maseñala para uma-atkila na tano publiko.

I mapropone na atkilon ma-deskribe komo Lot No. 002 E 03 `nai guaha 4,619 metro kuatdrao; Lot No. 002 E 04, i dinañkuloña 4,622 metro kuatdrao; yan, Lot No. 012 E 03, dinañkuloña 3,060 metro kuatdrao, poko mas o`menos. I mapan este na tano publiko gaige gi Depattamenton Tano.

I aplikante i kompanian Huang Zheng Corporation, Ltd., un` kompania guine giya Marianas. A presidenten este na kompania si Señor Quan Huang. Si Mr. Huang kontratistan este na atkilon ya inasiste as Señor Tony Reyes.

Si Mr. Huang para u usa i lugat para bisnis lulog, alumimum, yan papet katton, lugat para materiat siha (warehouse), manbenden materiat para mahatsan guma, bisnis produkton tase yan man-pepan boti.

I tetminon atkilon para bente siñko (25) años ya siña marinueba para kinse (15) años mas na tiempo. I atkilon siem-pre uma-detetmina akuanto pot sientto kada sakan segun i maprepara na ripot balin este siha na tano. I mapropopone na kontratan atkilon siña in` rikonose gi maseha mano na offisinan Depattamenton Tano entalo Luta, Tinian yan Saipan. I Depattamenton Tano trabiha ti man-resisibe otro planon uson este siha na tano publiko.

I Sekretarion Depattamenton Tano listo para u resibe opiñion publiko pot uson este siha na tano antes de Mayu 14, 2008.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow am-mataf igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipel, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiyeghiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap. Me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoorá, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i.

Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 002 E 03, eyoor faawu sangaras olabwughuw seigh me tiwoow llapal (4,619 square meters), elapeló me ngáre eghús, Lot No. 002 E 04, eyoor faawu sangaras olabwughuw reweigh me ruwoow llapal (4,622 square meters) elapelo me ngare eghus me Lot No. 012 E 03, eyoor eluuw sangaras oleigh llapal (3,060 square meters), elo Lower Base, Seipel. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngare óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii.

Schóól akkilon nge Huang Zheng Corporation., CNMI corporation LTD. Mr. Quang Huang nge ii schagh Samwoolul (President) corporation yeel.

Schéschéél samwoolul corporation yeel nge Quan Huang.
- iii.

Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. Quan Huang fengal me alillisil Mr. Tony A. Reyes.
- iv.

Schóól akkilon ebwe ayoorá bwuley reel recycling, sookko, wiisal tenda matiriyóód, retail/wholesale reel mwungol leeset, me ammwelil bwoot.

Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years), emmwel rebwe sóbweey ngáli bwal seigh me limoow ráágh (15 years).

Meel akkilon yeel nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw (value of the property).
- v.

Emmwel bwe tilighial akkilon óubwe bwughil mellol bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building Ilol Dandan, Seipél; aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) mellól Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Luuta; me ngáre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchúliýól.
- iv.

Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo bwal eew pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipel..
- v.

Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal schagh Ghuuw (May) 14, 2008 mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luuta me ngare Tchúliýól.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i.

The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot No. 002 E 03, containing an area of approximately 4,619 square meters, more or less, Lot No. 002 E 04, containing an area of approximately 4,622 square meters, more or less, and Lot No. 012 E 03, containing an area of approximately 3,060 square meters, situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcels is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii.

The prospective lessee is Huang Zheng Corporation., Ltd., a CNMI corporation. Mr. Quan Huang is the sole director of the corporation.

The president of the corporation is Mr. Quan Huang.
- iii.

The proposed lease was negotiated by Mr. Quan Huang with the assistance of Mr. Tony A. Reyes.
- iv.

The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of developing and operating facilities for recycling, a warehouse, retail of hardware materials, retail/wholesale of seafood products, and boat repair and maintenance.

The term of the proposed lease agreement is 25 years, with an option to extend the lease for an additional 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property.
- v.

A copy of the proposed lease agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; the 2nd floor of the Bank of Saipan Commercial Building, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi.

The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii.

The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before May 14, 2008 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

Letters to the Editor

Our marine monument II

Mr. John Gourley has written a few letters in opposition of our CNMI Marine Monument, or as he calls it the Pew Monument. He keeps bringing up subsistence fishermen in the northern islands. There are none. He harps on mineral/oil rights. CNMI has no underwater mineral/oil rights up there. He mentions current commercial fishermen. But not by name. Well, they are Northern Marianas Fisheries Inc. and Crystal Seas-CNMI Inc.—same principals I think, but two corporations. And they have recently spent a lot of money building a fish processing facility on Tinian. They were previously ported in Seattle, WA. I can only guess that they left Seattle because they could no longer make money catching fish along the west coast of the U.S. There are more species of fish there that you cannot catch versus the ones that may be caught. The commercial salmon fishing along the Oregon and California coast was cancelled this year due to depleted salmon stocks. After the fish stocks here are depleted, usually commercial fishermen will move on to better waters. They always do. The coastlines around the world are littered with abandoned fish processing facilities. I am all in favor of sustainable commercial fishing especially here in the CNMI. I have 14 various fishing rods and reels of my own. I am against plunder.

Mr. Gourley always makes reference to the Pew paid lobbyist here on Saipan, never identifying him by name. Well, it is no secret, it is Angelo Villagomez, co-founder of Beautify CNMI. And it is about time someone is paying him for his work. Just last year he was, in his words, a broke ass environmentalist. He was born on Saipan, a Chamoli, who left the island, got educated and returned to his homeland as an environmentalist and he has been busy. If you have the Internet, Google him. You will find literally hundreds of articles about Angelo and his environmental activities in the CNMI and Pacific region.

Now do a Google search on “John Gourley, Saipan”. Except for his recent letters to the editor,

Layunin ng bagong coalition

Mahal na kabayang Sherilyn Francisco,
Maraming salamat sa iyong komento na ipinalathala sa pahayagang Saipan Tribune nuong nakaraang Mayo a uno. Lubos akong naliligayahan at ipinupuri ka sa paggamit ng ating wika.
Isa rin ako sa libo-libong nakilahok na katulad mo sa martsa nuong Desyembre 7, 2007. Hindi ko maipaliwanag ang naramdaman ng mga sandaling yuon. Sa kaligayahan, naibigkas ko tuloy sa aking sarili na ang lahi talaga natin ay may pagkakaisa at kung tatanggapin lang ang kamalian ng isat-isa, mas higit pa ang matatamasa. Alam kong ito rin marahil ang iyong naramdaman at nabigkas.
Nuong nakalipas na apat na taon, ako ay naging miyembro ng dalawang organisasyon dito sa CNMI. Nag-aktibo rin sa “Unity Core Group”, bago nito ay naging abala sa sariling pamamaraan sa pagtulong sa ating mga kababayan. Isa sa aking natulungan ay ang mga biktima ng Moods & Music case at humantong sa pagkakabilanggo ng may sala sa federal prison. Iilan lang sa kababayan natin ang nakakaalam nito kabilang na ang magiting na mamahayag na Ppilipino na sumubaybay nito at mga banyaga. Hindi mahalaga ang katanyagan. Ang mahalaga ay ang pagtulong na walang kabayaran, sa matahimik na paraan, bukal sa puso at pagmamahal sa kapwa. Lahat tayo ay may taglay nito dahil ito ay nananalantay sa ating dugo, dugo ng Pilipino.

Ito ang kadahilanan kung bakit ako tumugon sa iyong komento sa sarili kong pamamaraan. Ako ngayon ay aktibong opisyal ng Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI). Bago ako sumapi sa coalition ay makailang ulit akong nagtanong-tanong sa mga ibat-ibang sektor ng manggagawa at sa karatig isla hanggang sa mga taga tangkilik ng grupo sa Guam. Ang resulta nga ay ang pakikilahok ko sa proseso at pag-tanggap sa pagkakahalal bilang isa sa opisyaleng samahan. Nuong Mayo 4, 2008, napatunayan ko na ang adhikain ng coalition ay ang sarili ko ring pangarap na ang layunin ay ang makatuhug sa ating lahat upang makamit natin ang matagal nang inaasam—ang mapabilang sa lipunan na matagal na nating pinagseserbisohan at makamtan ang pag-angat ng ating kabuhayan, ang pagsasama-sama bilang isang diwa at isang boses

there is not much about Mr. Gourley. I could not find any involvement in any environmental activities. He did not plant any trees, hold summer school environmental classes, paint the old light house, or any of the many various environmental activities that Angelo imitated and followed through last year. Mr. Gourley, who are you and who do you represent?

There have been other letters in opposition of our Monument. Google search the writers. Who are these people? Except for a few, they are not home boys. I know the style of most of the hack writers on this island. The opposition letters are usually professionally written and not actually documented. They are not working for you or your future or your children’s future. At this time.

The opposition has some valid points. Mr. Gourley and others have advised of us of possible pitfalls we may encounter with this venture. Why don’t you guys help us resolve these issues before we make the big decision?

As for the commercial fishermen on Tinian, let’s hear from you. Put in your honest concerns. We know you have a lot of bucks riding on this proposal. Or do you? Maybe a one- or two-year delay in implementing the monument would allow you to recapture your investment in the processing facility. It would look good on your website that you supported our CNMI Marine Monument! Do you have any ideas how this can work for you? Again, I favor sustainable commercial fishing in the CNMI.

We know Angelo. He has one heck of a track record here in the CNMI. We know where he stands on the future of the CNMI. Mr. Gourley and others are unknowns. Therefore, I will continue to support Angelo on our CNMI Marine Monument. Let’s look at our cards before we walk away from this jumbo pot. If you want to know who I am, you can also Google me. Oh yeah, write a letter or two.

Brad Doerr
San Roque, Saipan

na maghahatid ng ating mga hinaing sa matahimik at progresibong pamamaraan sa mga kinauukulan.
At nuong lingo rin ay nabuo naming ang isang obyektibo na katulad ng mga sumusunod:
1. Paghandaan ang pakikilahok sa pagbalangkas ng regulasyon sa nalalapit na implementasyon ng pederalismo dito sa CNMI.
2. Tulungan ang lahat na manggagawa na kulang sa kaalaman upang maipabatid at mabigyan nang tamang inpormasyon ukol sa mga darating na pagbabago.
3. Makipagtalastasan sa pro-bonong mga taga-pagtanggol sa Guam na bukas palad na tutulong upang maisaayos ang lahat ng mga kaukulang dukomento at proseso.
4. Gumawa ng mga aktibidad sa komonidad na makakatulong sa paglikom ng pondo upang maipamahagi sa mga manggagawang walang mga hanap-buhay upang maidagdag sa kaniilang pang proseso sa nalalapit na bagbabago.
5. Gumawa ng tamang hakbang upang magawan ng kaukulang paraan ang pagpigil sa pagpaauwi sa mga maggagwang matagal na nanilbihan dito sa CNMI habang ang bagong proseso ay binabalangkas.
6. Patuloy na pagbibigay ng tamang inpormasyon sa masa upang ang lahat ng ispekolasyon ay hindi makasira sa ating isipan at mabigyan tayo ng sapat na kaalaman.

Iilan lang ito sa mga misyon na nabuo at bukod dito, ang coalition ay nakahandang makipagtulungan sa ating gobyerno o kanino man upang maisakatuparan ang lahat ng ating hinihiling at bukas sa lahat ng karagdagang suhestyon upang mapabilis ang ating adhikain.
Ngayon, pinagdarasal natin ang lahat ng mga kasapi sa organisasyong manggagawa sa patuloy na pagiging mapayapa ang kaisipan at bukas sa lahat ng usapin na makakatulong sa lahat, hindi lamang sa mga maggagawa kundi sa lahat ng sangay ng gobyerno mapa pederal man o lokal.
Maraming salamat.

Renz Reyes
Chairman of the Board
Coalition of United Guest Workers (CNMI)

Business

Oil nears \$123 on \$200 oil forecast

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil futures blasted to a new record near \$123 a barrel Tuesday, gaining momentum as investors bought on a forecast of much higher prices and on any news hinting at supply shortages. Retail gas prices edged lower, but appear poised to rise to new records of their own in coming weeks.

A new Goldman Sachs prediction that oil prices could

rise to \$150 to \$200 within two years seemed to motivate much of Tuesday's buying, although a falling dollar and increasing concerns about declining crude production in Mexico and Russia contributed, analysts say.

The Energy Department raised its oil and gasoline price forecasts, but also predicted that high prices will cut demand more than previously thought.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery jumped to a new record of \$122.73 a barrel before retreating to settle up \$1.87 at a record \$121.84 on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Oil prices have nearly doubled from about \$62 a barrel a year ago, which Goldman sees as a sign that the world is in the midst of a "super spike" in oil prices. Analyst Arjun Murti said

in a research note released Monday that prices would ultimately force demand to fall sharply. Not everyone shares Goldman's view. Tim Evans, an analyst at Citigroup Inc., countered Goldman's analysis with a note predicting that crude prices could as easily fall to \$40 a barrel as rise to \$200 over the next two years because supplies are, as Evans put it, comfortable.

James Cordier, president of Tampa, Fla., trading firms Liberty Trading Group and OptionSellers.com, said Goldman's prediction isn't necessarily new: "We've heard numbers like these out of Goldman Sachs, especially over the last 12 months."

Indeed, it's not the first time Murti has espoused a super spike theory; in an April 2005 note, he predicted the oil market was in the early stages of an unprecedented rally that would send prices from a then-record of about \$57 a barrel to \$105.

Toyota raising prices on some models in US

TOKYO (AP)—Toyota Motor Corp., the world's second-biggest automaker by annual vehicle sales, is raising its prices on some U.S. models later this month amid increased worries about its profit growth in the American market.

The price increases, which will start in the middle of May, include a hike of \$200 on the 2008 Yaris sedan, which will cost \$12,425. The 2009 Camry will go up \$200 to \$18,920, the automaker's U.S. unit said in a statement released Friday.

The hybrid Camry, introduced as a 2007 model in late 2006, will cost \$300 more, at \$25,650, Toyota said.

Like other Japanese automakers, Toyota is enjoying sales growth while American automakers are struggling. Soaring gas prices have increased demand for smaller, fuel-efficient cars that Japanese automakers are reputed for.

Toyota faces a challenge in maintaining profits partly because of the recent decline in the dollar, which erodes the value of overseas earnings of Japanese exporters. Worries are also rising about how a U.S. economic slowdown may hurt sales.

Toyota is set to release financial results Thursday, when it could report its first profit drop in nearly a decade.

But it's still faring better than its U.S. rivals. GM lost \$3.3 billion in the first quarter. Ford had a surprise profit of \$100 million for the same period but expects to lose money this year as the U.S. auto market deteriorates.



A car is fueled up as gas prices are seen in the background in San Jose, Calif., Tuesday, May 6, 2008. AP

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,760.100
Down 17.800
(-0.31%)

HONG KONG
25,708.62
Down 553.51
(-2.11%)

JAKARTA
2,371.26
Down 0.5669
(-0.02%)

TOKYO
14,092.68
Up 43.42
(+0.31%)

K. LUMPUR
1,276.09
Up 1.48
(+0.12%)

MANILA
2,739.43
Up 11.73
(+0.43%)

SINGAPORE
3,208.57
Down 40.18
(-1.24%)

SEOUL
1,849.88
Down 9.18
(-0.49%)

BANGKOK
847.33
Up 1.50
(+0.18%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
13,020.83
+51.29

NASDAQ
2,483.31
+19.19

S&P
1,418.26
+10.77

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0563
British Pound	0.5078
Canadian Dollar	1.0039
Chinese Renmbi	6.9848
Euro	0.6454
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7945
Indian Rupee	41.128
Indonesian Rupiah	9228
Japanese Yen	104.84
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1515
New Zealand Dollar	1.2709
Philippine Peso	42.357
Singapore Dollar	1.3584
South Korean Won	1025.35
Swiss Franc	1.0532
Taiwan Dollar	30.485
Thailand Baht	31.72

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Stocks lift even as oil prices soar

NEW YORK (AP) -- Wall Street reversed early losses to close higher Tuesday, as investors monitored the movements of record high oil prices but still laid bets that the economy and companies are in recovery mode.

Crude oil climbed to a record near \$123 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange as traders, who have nearly doubled the price of oil over the past year, reacted to the weakening U.S. dollar, supply threats, and a note from Goldman Sachs & Co. predicting that oil could reach \$200 a barrel. High oil prices threaten to crimp consumers' discretionary spending.

But oil price sticker-shock waned and as investors looked past wider-than-expected quarterly losses at Swiss bank UBS, government-sponsored mortgage company Fannie Mae, and homebuilder D.R. Horton Inc.

"I think overall, the strength in stocks right now is on fairly firm footing," said JPMorgan equities analyst Thomas J. Lee. "In some ways, first-quarter earnings are yesterday's news."

World Resort SAIPAN

Mother's Day Special 2008

Saipan World Resort invites you to celebrate Mom's special day with us

Special Mother's Day Brunch Sunday, May 11, 2008

Adult: \$20.00
Children: \$10.00

Assorted Sashimi, Shell Oyster, Shrimp Cocktail
Assorted vegetables salads
Fruits salad with crabmeat sticks
Sea scallop, Pasta salad
...plus more

Seafood chowder and Hot and Sour Soup
Steamed fresh salmon, stir-fry beef w/ vegetables
Local fish with clams and spiced crab broth
Mixed seafood in chili and sesame oil, BBQ ribs
Prawn scampi, chicken in assorted herbs
Lasagna

Action Station
Tempura/ Sukiyaki/ Dimsum/ Sushi/ Carving

Because she's Unbeatable Unbelievable Unforgettable

...Attractive prizes will be raffled

For reservations, please call 234-5997

Nation

Obama wins NC; Clinton wins Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Barack Obama swept to a convincing victory in the North Carolina primary Tuesday night and declared he was closing in on the Democratic presidential nomination. Hillary Rodham Clinton eked out a win in Indiana as she struggled to halt her rival's march into history.

"Tonight we stand less than 200 delegates away from securing the Democratic nomination for president of the United States," Obama told a raucous rally in Raleigh, N.C.—and left no doubt he intended to claim the prize.

Clinton stepped before her own supporters not long afterward in Indianapolis. "Thanks

to you, it's full speed on to the White House," she said, signaling her determination to fight on in a campaign already waged across more than 16 months and nearly all 50 states.

Returns from 99 percent of North Carolina precincts showed Obama winning 56 percent of the vote to 42 percent for Clinton, a

triumph that mirrored his earlier wins in Southern states with large black populations.

That made Indiana a virtual must-win Midwestern contest for the former first lady, who had hoped to counter Obama's persistent delegate advantage with a strong run through the late primaries.

75 students arrested in San Diego university drug bust

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Dozens of San Diego State University students were arrested and six fraternities were suspended after a sweeping drug investigation found that some fraternity members openly dealt drugs and one even sent a mass text message advertising cocaine, authorities said Tuesday.

A five-month investigation prompted by a cocaine overdose death last year led to the arrests

of 96 people, 75 of them San Diego State students. A second drug death occurred while the investigation went on.

Twenty-nine people were arrested early Tuesday in raids at nine locations including the Theta Chi fraternity, where agents found cocaine, Ecstasy and three guns. Eighteen of them were wanted on warrants for selling to undercover agents.

Two kilograms of cocaine



AP
Photographers photograph guns and drugs seized during the arrest of 96 people on drug charges displayed at a news conference held in San Diego Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

were seized in all, along with 350 Ecstasy pills, marijuana, psychedelic mushrooms, hash oil, methamphetamine, illicit prescription drugs, several guns and at least \$60,000 in cash, authorities said.

Profits may have been used to finance fraternity operations, they said. Those arrested included a student who was about to receive a criminal justice degree and another who was to receive a master's degree in homeland security.

"A sad commentary is that when one of these individuals was arrested, they inquired as to whether or not his arrest and incarceration would have an effect on him becoming a federal law enforcement officer," said Ralph Partridge, special agent in charge of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in San Diego.

ACROSS THE NATION

8 in NYC accused of torturing, robbing drug dealers

NEW YORK (AP)—A gang of police impersonators abducted and tortured cocaine traffickers, forcing them to hand over multimillion-dollar stashes by holding their families hostage or threatening to squeeze their testicles with pliers, authorities said Tuesday. An indictment unsealed in federal court in Brooklyn charged eight men with robbery conspiracy, drug dealing and an array of other crimes. Since the spring of 2003, the gang injured about 100 people while committing 100 holdups targeting large-scale traffickers in New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Florida, investigators said.

Ga. man executed, ending 7-month moratorium

JACKSON, Ga. (AP)—A Georgia man who killed his live-in girlfriend was executed Tuesday, the first inmate put to death since the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of lethal injections. William Earl Lynd was pronounced dead at 7:51 p.m. EDT, Georgia Department of Corrections spokeswoman Mallie McCord told The Associated Press. It came less than an hour after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected efforts to block it. The roughly three dozen states around the country that use lethal injection held off on carrying out any executions for more than seven months while the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed the constitutionality of the three-drug cocktail that's used. It was the longest pause in U.S. executions in a quarter century.

Minnesota couple claims \$180 million Powerball jackpot

ROSEVILLE, Minn. (AP)—Paul and Sue Rosenau say they already have everything they need, so their lives won't change that much after winning a \$180.1 million Powerball jackpot. "We realize that money is probably not as important as friendship and helping others. And that's what we hope to do with it," Paul Rosenau said at a news conference Tuesday when they accepted a ceremonial check. Rosenau, 54, is a heavy equipment operator and his wife, Sue, works at an agricultural research institute. The couple from Waseca will take the prize from last Saturday's drawing in a lump-sum of \$59.6 million after taxes. Their win came five years to the day of the death of a 2-year-old granddaughter, Makayla, who had Krabbe disease, a nervous system disorder.

Video shows Philly officers kicking suspects

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A half-dozen police officers kicked and beat three men pulled from a car during a traffic stop as a TV helicopter taped the confrontation.

The video, shot by WTXF-TV, shows three police cars stopping a car Monday, two days after a city officer was shot to death responding to a bank robbery.

The tape shows about a dozen officers gathering around the vehicle. About a half-

dozen officers hold two of the men on the ground. Both are kicked repeatedly, while one is seen being punched; one also appears to be struck with a baton.

The third man is also kicked and ends up on the ground.

"On the surface it certainly does not look good in terms of the amount of force that was used," Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey said. "But we don't want to rush to judgment."

GARAGE SALE Saturday 5/10/08 8am-1pm

MOBIL GAS KAGMAN TO KAGMAN
CAPITOL HILL PAPAGO

First right turn after the Mobil

Toys, household items, baskets, vases, clothing, etc.

PINA DR.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB08-DPW-060

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 19, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENTS AND PARTS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS"

COPIES OF THE BID SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PL15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PL15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **DIEGO B. SONGSONG**
Acting Secretary of DPW

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670
Fax. (670) 234-9021 • Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed Amendment of the Citizen Participation Plan
(This advertisement is paid for with CDBG funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the proposed amendment of its Citizen Participation Plan which sets forth NMHC's policies and procedures for citizen participation in the planning, implementation and assessment of its Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays. Written comments should be submitted **no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, April 21, 2008 to NMHC's offices in Saipan, Tinian or Rota.** NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities. If you should require any additional information or need special accommodations in reviewing the Citizen Participation Plan, please contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Planner/Grant Writer at 234-6866/7689 or 7670.

JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

"NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer"

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
BAE, HAK CHON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BAE HAK CHON,
Plaintiff,
v.
CHANG, DAE SUNG,
Defendant.

CIVIL CASE
NO. 08-0116A
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
CHANG, DAE SUNG
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

/s/ Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this 17th day of April, 2008.

Part-Time position available for our Saipan location. Applicant must have extensive knowledge of PCs. Position involves diagnosing and repairing personal computers and also customer service. Background in electronics a plus.

Computer Technician

Requirements:

- US permanent resident
- Must be able to lift heavy objects
- Friendly and self-motivated
- Excellent communication skills
- Dependable transportation

DIAL
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234-7368

Asia

Int'l aid reaches Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—International aid began to trickle into Myanmar on Tuesday, but the stricken Irrawaddy delta, the nation's rice bowl where 22,000 people perished and twice as many are missing, remained cut off from the world.

In the former capital of Yangon, soldiers from the repressive military regime were out on the streets in large numbers for the first time since Cyclone Nargis hit over the weekend, helping to clear away rubble. Buddhist monks and Catholic nuns wielded axes and long knives to remove ancient, fallen trees that were once the city's pride.

However, coastal areas of the delta worst hit by the high winds and tidal surges were out of reach for aid workers, isolated by flooding and road damage.

On Wednesday, Yangon's 6.5 million residents faced prices for rice, charcoal and bottled water that were double the usual rate.

Vendors were selling bottled water 500 kyat—50 cents—a liter, more than double the normal price. A standard 70-pound bag of rice, a staple of the Burmese diet, had doubled in price to \$40—an astronomical price in a country where many scrape by on \$2 a day.

Cooking oil, another basic necessity, was priced at \$7 per kilogram, up from \$4.

Some residents waited in lines for nine hours or more to buy gasoline to fuel generators and their cars. At one gas station in the Yangon suburb of Sanchaung, fistfights broke out, with weary residents hitting each other with sticks after someone tried to cut in line.

The U.N.'s World Food Program said international aid began to flow, with 800 tons of food getting through to the first of nearly 1 million people left homeless by the cyclone.

Concerns mounted over the

lack of food, water and shelter in the delta region and adjacent Yangon, where nearly a quarter of Myanmar's 57 million people live, as well as the spread of disease in a country with one of the world's worst health systems.

"Our biggest fear is that the aftermath could be more lethal than the storm itself," said Caryl Stern, who heads the U.N. Children's Fund in the United States.

After days of little military presence in the streets, soldiers were out Tuesday clearing massive felled trees with power saws and axes and using their bare hands to lift debris into trucks.

State television played up the effort, showing images of a government truck distributing water, though residents said they hadn't seen any water trucks around the city. There were no images of the hundreds of monks helping the recovery effort.



Residents fill water into tanks after water shortage in Yangon, Myanmar, Wednesday, May 7, 2008, following devastating Cyclone Nargis' hit over the weekend.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP to continue importing rice

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines will continue to buy rice on the international market to build local inventories in preparation for possible weather calamities during the typhoon season, the agriculture chief said Wednesday. The world's top rice importer has so far contracted 1.7 million tons of the staple to fill a 10-percent domestic production gap despite tight global supplies and record high prices. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said the state-run grain importer, the National Food Authority, still needs to import around 675,000 tons of rice as buffer stocks for the last quarter of the year.

China accuses US of shoddy probe into tainted heparin

BEIJING (AP)—China's drug safety agency accused the United States on Tuesday of blocking Beijing's inquiry into a blood thinner linked to 81 deaths by refusing to provide details on victims and specifics about production. Two Chinese experts who attended a conference on the drug, heparin, in suburban Washington, D.C., last month

said the U.S. determined a contaminant was likely to blame without considering other possible factors. "We need to resolve this in a scientific matter, not just by blaming a contaminant," said Jin Shaohong, a member of the drug evaluation committee of China's Food and Drug Administration. "I think it is too early to say that."

Japanese, Chinese leaders hold summit in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP)—The leaders of Japan and China held their first summit in Tokyo in a decade Wednesday, in a feel-good bid to improve relations amid territorial disputes and spats over food safety and history. Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and visiting Chinese President Hu Jintao sat down for talks expected to touch on issues including a feud over maritime gas deposits and Beijing's handling of protests in Tibet. The Asian giants have worked hard to cast a warm glow on the talks while downplaying expectations of concrete agreements. Ties between the two had plummeted until Fukuda's predecessor made a fence-mending trip to Beijing in 2006.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



Request for Proposal RFP 08-015

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Purchase, Delivery, and Installation of Playground Equipment for various Head Start Centers located in both Rota and Saipan.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 08-015" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than May 26, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 08-015, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination", containing one (1) original and one (1) copy. Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Carl Dela Cruz, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: delacruz@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ **Dr. David M. Borja, D.B.A.**
Commissioner of Education

/S/ **Carl F. Dela Cruz**
Acting P & S Office



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION CUC-IFB08-003

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the **REHABILITATION OF THE EXISTING SLOW SAND FILTERS PROJECT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Sealed bids shall be identified on outside of the envelope by Invitation for Bids No. CUC-IFB08-003. Bids in six sets (including original) will be accepted at the Procurement and Supply Office, CUC, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan until 2:00 P.M., on, May 23, 2008, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury.

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval from the USEPA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a U.S. Treasury listed company. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, of the rehabilitation of the existing slow sand filters, related plumbing, installation of qualitative measurement devices such as Turbidity Meters, Residual Chlorine Meter, related small pumps, electrical controls, and a new control room to house the metering devices adjacent to the Saipan International Airport, Saipan CNMI.

A non-refundable payment of \$300.00 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after April 25, 2008 at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 A.M., on May 9, 2008, at the CUC Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to **Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager at telephone number (670) 235-7025 thru 7032 Ext. 111/134** or Larry Manacop Water Division Engineer at extension 155.

ANTHONY C. GUERRERO
Executive Director

World

Chile volcano blasts ash 20 miles high

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP)—The long-dormant Chaiten volcano blasted ash some 20 miles (30 kilometers) into the Andean sky on Tuesday, forcing the last of thousands to evacuate and fouling a huge stretch of the South American continent.

A thick column of ash climbed into the stratosphere and blew eastward for hundreds of miles (kilometers) over Patagonia to the Atlantic Ocean, closing schools and a regional airport. Chilean and Argentine citizens were advised to wear masks to avoid breathing the dangerous fallout.

Chilean officials ordered the total evacuation of Chaiten, a small provincial capital in an area of lakes and glacier-carved fjords just six miles (10 kilometers) from the roiling cloud.

Interior Minister Edmundo Perez said anyone still in the area should “urgently head to ships in the bay to be evacuated.”

More than 4,000 people were evacuated over the weekend and 350 more headed out Tuesday.

Also emptied was the soot-coated border town of Futaleufu, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) from the volcano.

The five-day-old eruption is the first in 9,370 years, said Charles Stern, a volcanologist at the University of Colorado-Boulder who has studied Chaiten.

He said the nearby town could end up buried, much like the Roman city of Pompeii following Mount Vesuvius’ eruption in 79 A.D. Volcanic material from Chaiten’s last eruption measured up to 5 feet in places.

“What happens after today is anybody’s guess,” Stern said.

The gritty, gray-white blizzard of ash covered houses and roads.

A cloud of smoke and ashes produced by intensified eruption of the Chaiten volcano are seen over Chaiten on Tuesday, May 6, 2008, in southern Chile.

AP



Some people chose to remain in Futaleufu, donning masks when they dared to leave their homes.

About a 1/2 inch (1 centimeter) of ash coated the Argentine tourist town of Esquel, a Patagonian resort favored by backpackers and skiers at the foot of the Andes, where the airport and schools have been closed since Saturday.

The fallout covered a third of Argentina’s Minnesota-sized province of Chubut, provincial Gov. Mario Das Neves said.

While volcanologists around the world eagerly awaited data on the scope of the eruption, one local expert got an up-close look when he accompanied police and air force teams over the 3,950-foot (1,200 meter) peak.

Volcanologist Juan Cayupi told The Associated Press by telephone that Chaiten’s two small craters have morphed into a large, single crater.

Lava was rising within the crater but has not yet spilled over, said Luis Lara, another volcanologist with the government’s Geology and Mining Service.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, who visited the area Monday, has pledged financial help for people who lose homes or livestock. Farmers left behind about 40,000 head of livestock, and officials expressed fear that many of them could die.

But the possibility of the Chaiten volcano affecting Earth’s climate is probably fairly low, experts said.

So far, Chaiten has emitted only a few thousand tons of sulfur dioxide, “which is very small,” said Simon Carn, a University of Maryland-Baltimore volcanologist who uses satellites to measure volcanic gases.



WORLD BRIEFS

12 killed in air strikes in north Darfur, aid group says

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—The peacekeeping force in Darfur said Tuesday it was still trying to evacuate those wounded in airstrikes two days earlier that an aid group reported left 12 people dead, including six children. The U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, Ameerah Haq, called for immediate access to the wounded. “I am deeply perturbed by the reported bombings of a school, water installations and a market where civilians, especially women and children are present,” she said in a statement. Gen. Martin Luther Agwai, commander of the joint African Union-UN peacekeeping mission, said the bombings were “unacceptable acts against civilians” and said recent Darfur violence reflected a “total lack of commitment” by the government and the rebel groups to the peace process.

Iraqi civilians flee fighting in Baghdad militia stronghold

BAGHDAD (AP)—A rocket slammed

into Baghdad’s city hall and another hit a downtown park Tuesday as more frightened civilians fled a Shiite militia stronghold where U.S.-led forces are locked in fierce street battles. The American push in the Sadr City district—launched after an Iraqi government crackdown on armed Shiite groups began in late March—is trying to weaken the militia grip in a key corner of Baghdad and disrupt rocket and mortar strikes on the U.S.-protected Green Zone. But fresh salvos of rockets from militants arced over the city, wounding at least 16 people and drawing U.S. retaliation that escalated civilian panic and flight to safer areas.

Historians seek public report on World War II forgeries

LONDON (AP)—British historians called Tuesday for a public report on the inquiry into 29 forged documents found at the National Archives that falsely accuse Winston Churchill’s government of having a secret, cordial relationship with Nazi SS chief Heinrich Himmler at the height of World

War II. Eight leading historians signed an open letter urging police to take action against the suspect who faked the documents, which also allege that Churchill ordered the assassination of Himmler to keep the discussions secret. Mainstream historians reject the assertion about Churchill because there is no evidence to support it, except the faked papers. Himmler was never assassinated; he committed suicide by poisoning himself with cyanide after he was captured by British forces in 1945.

Russia, US sign civil nuclear pact

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian and U.S. officials signed a key agreement on civilian nuclear power Tuesday that could give Washington access to Russian technology and potentially hand Moscow lucrative deals on storing spent fuel. The deal, signed on the eve of Dmitry Medvedev’s inauguration as president, signals a reversal in policy for the U.S. administration on cooperating with Russia on nuclear issues. Cooperation had cooled in recent years, mainly due to disagreements

over how to handle Iran’s perceived nuclear threat. “The U.S. and Russia were once nuclear rivals,” U.S. Ambassador William Burns said after a signing ceremony. “Today, we are nuclear partners with unique capabilities and unique responsibilities for global nuclear leadership.”

Hitting age 60, Israel gets nostalgic for the old days

JERUSALEM (AP)—As Israel celebrates its 60th birthday, Israelis have their gaze set firmly backward. Turn on the TV and you’ll see grainy archive footage and old-timers reminiscing about desert wars and pioneering days on the kibbutz. Radio stations are busy with musical retrospectives and the hottest new CD features contemporary singers covering Israeli favorites from decades past. The love affair with the past comes at a time of unease—Israelis have much to be proud of but aren’t sure what they have to look forward to. “It’s no secret that in our country the present isn’t great and the future is always scary, so if you want to feel good,

it’s more fun to look back and ignore the problems,” said Shaanan Streett, frontman for the Israeli hip-hop group Hadag Nahash. The name roughly translates as “the fish is a snake.” “It’s just like when people turn 60,” he said. “Their relatives throw a party and show slides of them when they were younger and better looking.”

Colombia extradites paramilitary warlord to US

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Colombia’s government says it has extradited a paramilitary warlord to the United States to face drug trafficking charges. In a statement, President Alvaro Uribe’s office said Carlos Mario Jimenez was flown early Wednesday to Washington, D.C., via Miami on a DEA plane. On Tuesday, Colombia’s top judicial panel overturned a Supreme Court decision that had temporarily blocked the extradition. The court had ruled Jimenez should not be allowed to leave the country without confessing to his crimes and paying reparations to his victims.

Environment

DEQ awards contest winners

The Division of Environmental Quality held an Awards Ceremony for the Environmental Awareness contest winners on Friday, May 2, 2008 at the Saipan World Resort.

Recycling Contest, aimed to divert waste from the landfill. 9 schools recycled over 235,681 pounds of aluminum cans, glass, plastics, paper, cardboard and other mixed recyclables.

The elementary category was won by Kagman Elementary School, 1st place; GTC Elementary School, 2nd place; and WSR Elementary School, 3rd place. Honorable mention awards were granted to San Vicente Elementary School, San Antonio Elementary School, and Dandan Elementary School.

Marianas High School won first place in the high school category; while Grace Christian Academy placed first in the junior high category and placed second in the high school category.

Sister Remedios Early Childhood School recycled more than 99,297 pounds, making the small school the overall winner of the contest.

Another Environmental Awareness contest was the high school essay competition, where all 3 winners attend Marianas High School. First place



Recycling contest winners pose with DEQ director Frank M. Rabauliman. Ignacio Cabrera, former DEQ director, is also in the picture.

went to Adeleyah Mojica; second place to Raquel Villagomez; and third place Necita Aldan.

The Cook A Rainbow challenge, held earlier on March 29, in conjunction with CNMI Nutrition Month, was

won by Frank M. Deleon Guerrero, first place; Glen Santos, second place; and Ivan Gatbonton, third place. (DEQ)

Reusable bag promo to end soon

Last year, DEQ launched a partnership with Joeten Enterprises promoting the use of canvas tote bags.

An average of 450 customers per week take advantage of this opportunity, but only one customer wins the \$25 raffle each week. The promotion at Joeten stores (Hafa Adai, Susupe and Dandan) will conclude the week of May 4, with the final raffle drawing on Friday, May 9.

Heidi Yelnin, a regular shopper at Joeten, says she's won once or twice, but what mat-

ters more than the winning the voucher is that this little action can make a difference in our environment. "I'd like to see more incentive programs like this at other stores, too" said Yelnin.

The promotion is ongoing at Carmen Safeway. For each time a shopper uses a canvas or reusable bag for their purchases, the shopper will receive an entry form for a chance to win the weekly gift certificate prize, valued at \$25.

The reusable bag promotion is one way shoppers can protect the environment and promote sustainable living by reducing the amount of plastic bags while grocery shopping. (DEQ)

More than 400 totebags such as the ones featured here have been distributed at various DEQ outreach events since 2005.



CoCo reads to GTC students last week

CoCo was invited to GTC Elementary School last week to read to its students.

All of CoCo's books were about protecting our environment. *Earth day - Hooray* showcased how a small group of young children started

aluminum can drive so they can earn money to beautify a nearby park for their neighborhood earth day celebration.

In *Just a Dream*, students learned that small acts like properly disposing of garbage, recy-

cling and planting trees can save our natural resources for many future generations.

First and second graders listened to Reina Camacho read Dr. Suess' book, *The Lorax*. The book explained that all resources are important.

The special occasion is the GTC Young Author's Book Fair held annually. GTC also invited CoCo to their Cultural Day celebration on Sat, May 31. (CoCo)



Reina Camacho, DEQ PIO, reads *The Lorax* by Dr. Suess to Ms. Lindsay Davis' first grade class on Monday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Turtles often mistake floating plastic bags as food. Protect our turtles, protect our ocean, protect our reefs

DID YOU KNOW?

Billions of plastic bags are choking our planet. All of these "free" bags ultimately cost both consumers and the environment plenty:

Each year billions of bags end up as ugly litter.

Production requires vast amounts of oil.

In a landfill, plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to degrade. As litter, they breakdown into tiny bits, contaminating our soil and water.

When plastic bags breakdown, small plastic particles can pose threats to marine life and contaminate the food web.

Recycling requires energy for the collection, processing, etc. and doesn't address the above issues.

Keep in mind that while reusable bags cost money upfront, reusable bag can easily pay for itself during its lifecycle. Reusable bags will also help you eliminate hundreds, if not thousands, of those plastic and paper shopping bags choking our planet. It's an easy way to do your part! (CoCo)

Another right route? Say NO to plastic

We can, one bag at a time, reduce the amount of plastics and reduce our environmental footprint.

Things you can do today

Refuse

If you're only buying a couple of items, consider carrying them.

When shopping, take reusable alternatives like 'green bags', calico bags, string bags, baskets or boxes with you. Keep them in the car, or put your car keys in them at home so you don't forget to take them with you.

Consolidate purchases into one bag rather than getting a new bag at each store.

Be aware that the thicker department store bags are generally non-recyclable, so the best action is to avoid taking them.

Reduce

Count the number of plastic bags you use and aim to reduce that number each week.

Avoid putting items that already have handles, eg. dog food, laundry detergent, into plastic bags.

Avoid using small plastic bags as bin liners. Simply put your rubbish straight into your household bin and give the bin a quick rinse afterwards then reuse the water on your garden.

Biodegradable (break down using natural processes) and Degradable (can use chemicals to break down) plastic bags are becoming available. However, be cautious when using these bags, as there are no standards in place to test their effectiveness. Degradable bags just break into smaller pieces and can be even more damaging to flora and fauna.

Reuse

Reuse plastic bags at home for: freezing food, packing children's school lunches, storage of clothing and other household items.

Keep a spare reusable shopping bag in your handbag or wallet for those times when you thought you would not need a bag, but did.

Recycle

Not all recycling centers on Saipan can recycle plastic bags. Call your waste hauler or recycling center and ask if they accept plastic (grocery) bags. If they don't, please don't put plastic bags in with your normal recycling; it can cause major problems in processing.

Stay motivated

Be proud to be a trend setter.

Encourage all family members to BYOB.

When you use your reusable bag, you are reminding and encouraging others to use theirs.

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Source: http://environmental-activism.suite101.com/article.cfm/say_no_to_plastic_bags

Life & Style

Spears' expanded visits recognize 'progress'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears will have expanded visits with her sons following a child-custody hearing that went off without a hitch Tuesday, capping a three-month period of relative calm and stability for the troubled pop star and mother of two.

The longer visits are "recognition of the progress that has been made, a progress in structure and stability," said Mark Vincent Kaplan, lawyer for Spears' ex-husband Kevin Federline. At a post-hearing press conference, Kaplan said Federline retains custody of 2-year-old Sean Preston and 1-year-old Jayden James, but that Spears would be allowed to see them for longer periods.

Surrounded by lawyers and her parents, Spears smiled slightly, looked straight ahead and did not respond to questions as she left the hearing, which was closed to reporters. Federline left a few minutes later, smiled at everyone, but also did not comment.

"We are so pleased with Britney's progress and we are very appreciative of the court's recognition of this progress," Spears' parents, Jamie and Lynne Spears, said in a statement read by court spokesman Allan Parachini.

Federline spokesman Elliot Mintz said his client is "extremely pleased with the way things went today."

Kaplan said one of the major changes is that "there are not daily events" to undermine the situation, and that he expected to see further progress from Spears. He said "the children are doing great," adding that Federline hopes they will one day have a more constant relationship with their mother.

"Consistently, we've said that Kevin's goal and hope is that his children will have the benefit sometime in the future of having two parents actively participating in their lives," he said.

A hearing was set for July 15 to get a progress report on the new arrangement.

It was clear from the beginning that Tuesday's hearing would be different from past courthouse spectacles, which included screaming fans with banners, frenzied paparazzi and Spears dressed in cocktail-party attire. The collection of photographers, reporters, sheriff's deputies and prospective jurors who witnessed Spears' arrival in the front of a white Land Rover didn't compare to the circus at a January hearing, when she showed up in a black minidress and gold platform shoes, then bolted before entering the courtroom.

On Tuesday, a somber Spears entered court wearing a brown polka-dot dress and white sweater. Federline arrived about 15 minutes later in a beige

pin-striped suit. Moments after Superior Court Commissioner Scott Gordon swore them in, Spears attorney Stacy Phillips asked that the hearing be closed, and Gordon ordered reporters out.

It's been three months since Spears left a psychiatric ward a week ahead of schedule and stirred up a paparazzi car chase, a scene that looked like the beginning of even more erratic behavior. But in the weeks that followed, she lay low and largely avoided the cameras, spent time with family members and even found success in a cameo appearance on CBS' "How I Met Your Mother."

During that time, the 26-year-old pop star has been under the conservatorship of her father. The court-ordered arrangement put James Spears in control of his daughter's personal and financial affairs.

Federline has had full custody of his two sons by Spears since January, when police were called to Spears' home and taken by ambulance to UCLA Medical Center after she refused to relinquish one of the boys to a Federline bodyguard.

Her visitation rights were suspended at the time, but have been gradually restored in recent months.

Spears was a constant media presence before the conservatorship took effect.

Photographers captured her every visit to Starbucks and gas stations around Los Angeles, and documented a bout of bizarre behavior that included appearing in public without underwear, shaving her own head and beating a car with an umbrella.

Since James Spears took over her affairs, the pop star has been relatively invisible to photographers, only occasionally snapped shopping or having dinner with her mother, Lynne. A traffic accident last month turned out to be a minor bump in which no one was injured, and for which no one was cited.

Spears' public face has been limited to the "How I Met Your Mother" cameo, which was received well enough that she reprised it during a taping last week. The episode is set to air May 12. "We're thrilled to have Britney joining us once again," series executive producer and co-creator Craig Thomas said in a statement last month. The show's audience increased by a million viewers the week Spears appeared.

The pop star also made news last month when she took on full-time exercise and nutrition coaches from Bally Total Fitness. Once known for her flawless figure, Spears was widely ridiculed for her flabby form in September during a universally panned performance on the MTV Video Music Awards that was meant to herald her comeback.



In this file photo released by Christie's Auction House in New York, Thursday, May 1, 2008, an 1873 oil on canvass by Claude Monet entitled "Le Pont du chemin de fer a Argenteuil" is shown.

Monet painting sold for \$41M at NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—A Claude Monet painting was auctioned Tuesday for more than \$41 million, breaking the auction record for the French Impressionist artist.

"Le Pont du chemin de fer a Argenteuil"—a painting of a bridge with two trains passing over the Seine while pleasure boats float below—was sold at a Christie's sale for \$41,481,000, said Rik Pike, a spokes-

man for the auction house.

The previous record for a Monet painting was \$36.5 million for his 1904 "Nymphaeas," which was sold last year.

Christie's said the buyer wanted to remain anonymous.

The auction house didn't identify the seller either, but it reportedly was the Nahmads, a family of art dealers with galleries in New York

and London.

The sale price, which included the buyer's premium, exceeded the pre-auction estimate of \$35 million to \$40 million, Pike said.

Argenteuil was a center for pleasure boating among affluent Parisians and a popular subject for many Impressionist artists. Monet, who rented a house near the cast-iron railway bridge, painted the work in 1873.

NYC jury convicts fan of stalking Uma Thurman

NEW YORK (AP)—A former mental patient obsessed with Uma Thurman faces up to a year in jail after a jury convicted him Tuesday of stalking and harassing the actress with a barrage of frightening advances.

Jack Jordan, a 37-year-old out-of-work lifeguard and pool cleaner, showed no emotion as the jury forewoman said he was guilty of stalking and one count of aggravated harassment.

The balding, bespectacled Jordan was calm as court officers led him from the courtroom in handcuffs with an officer carrying the large, overstuffed backpack Jordan always brought to court. The judge ordered a psychiatric exam before Jordan's next court date on June 2.

"I've learned some disturbing things about this defendant during this case," said state Supreme Court Justice Gregory Carro. "I am going to remand him for a psychiatric exam."

Defense lawyer George Vomvolakis said Jordan was disappointed with the verdict and that he will soon decide whether to appeal. He requested protective custody for Jordan, saying he faces "specific threats because he's a stalker."

"He was actually assaulted" in jail after his arrest, he said.

A Thurman spokesman said the actress had no comment on the verdict. Prosecutors also said they would not comment.

Despite the conviction, Jordan will not face much time behind bars. The most the judge can give him on the misdemeanor counts is one year, and Jordan can get time lopped off for good behavior and

the six weeks he already served.

The judge can issue an order of protection that requires Jordan to stay away from Thurman.

The verdict comes after a weeklong trial that featured riveting testimony from Thurman, who told the jury she was "completely freaked out" by Jordan's behavior. She called the whole experience "a nightmare."

Prosecutors say Jordan had stalked the "Kill Bill" and "Pulp Fiction" star since 2005, when an intense crush that had been building since high school made him decide the two just had to be together. At one point, he sent a note that said, "My hands should be on your body at all times."

He showed up on Thurman's Greenwich Village doorstep and on the Manhattan set of her movie "My Super Ex-Girlfriend." He sent her bizarre cards and letters, at least 20 of them after he was committed to a Maryland mental facility.

Jordan testified in his own defense, saying Friday he now understands how Thurman could have been frightened by his attempts to see her, and by his comment that her two children didn't exist, that they were "an illusion."

"I was feeling distressed," said Jordan. "I had this feeling of longing for Ms. Thurman and I was trying to explain it. I was not trying to scare her in any way."

Thurman, 38, testified for three hours Thursday, captivating the jury with her story of how the stalking frightened her and made her fear for her children.

She testified about a card Jordan delivered to her movie trailer in lower Manhattan's SoHo neighborhood. It bore a drawing of an open grave, a headstone and a man standing on the edge of a razor blade. A spiral of random words on the card referred to "chocolate, mouth, soft, kissing" and the remark about his hands being on her body.

Jordan said he developed a crush on Thurman in high school after seeing her in the 1988 Terry Gilliam movie "The Adventures of Baron Munchausen." His feelings intensified after he saw her in the Quentin Tarantino-directed "Kill Bill" in 2003.

The son of a physicist and a homemaker, Jordan earned a bachelor's degree in English literature from the University of Chicago in 1994; he also has done most of the work for a master's degree.

The prosecutor noted Jordan's education and intelligence when she told jurors the defendant was trying to make them believe his pursuit of Thurman was naive and guileless when in fact, she said, it was subtly calculating and intimidating.

Jordan, one of eight children, lives with his parents in Gaithersburg, Md. He testified they had him committed to a mental facility in late 2005 after learning he was being investigated because of his obsession with Thurman.

After his release, Jordan started showing up repeatedly at Thurman's house last year. When he was arrested on Oct. 5, 2007, he was living out of his car in Manhattan and working part-time as a lifeguard and pool cleaner.



Britney Spears arrives at Los Angeles County Superior courthouse for a child custody status hearing Monday, May 6, 2008.

Judy Davis sues newspaper for defamation

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Judy Davis told an Australian court Tuesday that she stopped attending her daughter's soccer games out of anguish over newspaper articles she claims suggested she hates children.

The 53-year-old two-time Academy Award nominee, who's also won Golden Globe and Emmy awards, is suing News Corp. subsidiary Nationwide News for defamation over articles published in Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper in February 2006 about her behavior at a local council meeting.

She has not quantified the damages that she's seeking.

The articles were about Davis' opposition to a council plan to install floodlights for children's soccer training at a park near her Sydney home. The newspaper said she stormed out of a council meeting where the plan was being discussed after an argument with council officials.

Davis claims the articles implied she hated children.

During almost four hours on the witness stand in the New South Wales state Supreme Court on Tuesday, Davis said her image was tarnished by the newspaper and she was concerned it would affect her 10-year-old daughter, Charlotte.

The actress, who got Oscar nominations as best actress for her performance in 1984's "A Passage to India" and for best supporting actress for 1992's "Husbands and Wives," said she was so worried that she stopped attending her daughter's soccer games.

"The parents of the girls in her class might not want her to play with them because her mother doesn't like children," Davis told the court.

"And maybe the soccer team that she's just joined ... might not want her in the team," she added. "They're very big things in a young girl's life."

The hearing continues Wednesday.

'American Idol' hopeful flubs lyrics

NEW YORK (AP)—"American Idol" hopeful Jason Castro became at least the third contestant this season to flub lyrics to a song.

The Dreadlocked One performed the Bob Dylan classic "Mr. Tambourine Man," and forgot the words to the second verse Tuesday.

Wearing a goofy grin afterward, Castro acknowledged: "I lost some lines in there; that's kinda bad."

Judge Simon Cowell thought Castro's gaffe could mean the end of him. "Jason, I'd pack your suitcase," Cowell told the 20-year-old folkster from Rockwall, Texas.

The other two judges were less than impressed, too.

Randy Jackson said Castro wasn't "in the zone." Paula Abdul was, as usual, gentler.

Earlier in the night, Castro sang Bob Marley's "I Shot the Sheriff" and got brutal reviews from Jackson and Cowell.

Castro is not the first "Idol" this season to forget the lyrics.

David Archuleta, who's still in the running, goofed during a Beatles song and castoff Brooke White forgot the words to Andrew Lloyd Webber's "You Must Love Me."



In this April 24, 2008 file photo, American Idol contestant Jason Castro arrives at the Britweek launch party at the British Consul Generals' residence in Los Angeles.

Another celebrity leaves 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Mario is leaving "Dancing With the Stars." The R&B singer and his professional partner, Karina Smirnoff, were the low-scorers at Tuesday's results show.

He and Smirnoff performed a Viennese waltz and a jive Monday on the ABC dance-off, earning 53 out of 60 points. Judges crowned Mario "a new prince" following his ballroom routine,

but viewer votes didn't keep him on the program.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which couple is eliminated each week.

'Superbad' leads MTV Movie Awards nominees

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Superbad" has supergood chances of winning a trophy at the MTV Movie Awards.

The buddy comedy starring Michael Cera and Jonah Hill leads the awards ceremony with five nominations in categories such as "Best Comedic Performance" and "Best Movie," MTV announced Tuesday. Other multiple nominated films

included "Juno," "Enchanted," "Transformers," "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End" and "Knocked Up."

A new category—"Best Summer Movie So Far"—will debut at the annual awards ceremony. Nominees for that category are "Iron Man," "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," "Sex and the City: The Movie," "Speed Racer"

and "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian."

Viewers can vote for all winners online through May 23. They can also submit online movies parodying films from the past year in the user-generated category, "Best Movie Spoof." The live ceremony will be broadcast on June 1 from the Gibson Amphitheatre in Universal City, Calif.

Scarlett Johansson flashes ring in NY

NEW YORK (AP)—Hours after confirming her engagement to Ryan Reynolds, Scarlett Johansson flashed a diamond ring at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala.

The 23-year-old actress unveiled the sparkler while walking the red carpet—sans Reynolds—at Monday night's celeb-studded event, which drew the likes of Julia Roberts, George Clooney, Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes.

Johansson, flanked by Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, posed for the cameras in a cream gown by the designers that showed off her curves. Her publicist, Marcel Pari-

seau, said earlier in the day that Johansson and Reynolds were engaged and had not yet set a wedding date.

The couple reportedly had been dating for more than a year. Their relationship status was speculated about in gossip columns and tabloids, which published paparazzi shots of the pair.

When rumors began swirling in early '08 that Reynolds had proposed, Johansson deflected a question by The Associated Press with a joke about her affection for presidential hopeful Barack Obama: "My heart belongs to Barack, and that is who I am currently, finally, engaged to. Yes."

Johansson's recent credits include "The Other Boleyn Girl" and "The Nanny Diaries." Reynolds recently starred in "Definitely, Maybe." He was previously engaged to Alanis Morissette.

Scarlett Johansson wears a diamond ring as she arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute Gala, in New York on Monday, May 5, 2008.

Worrier can turn deaf ear to barrage of bad news

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been reading your column most of my adult life, but I don't ever remember seeing any letters from people who are just afraid of life.

The world today is such a scary place. I have a small child who will have to grow up in this world, and sometimes the thought terrifies me. I hear about school shootings, dangerous gangs, religious leaders who are sex offenders, and I recently watched a report of six teenage girls beating another and videotaping it to post online.

How can parents feel safe raising our kids in a world this crazy and scary? I am trying to look for the positive in life, but, honestly, it gets harder and harder.

—MISSING THE OLD DAYS IN ARIZONA CITY

DEAR MISSING THE OLD DAYS: I agree, bad things do sometimes happen to good people. However, you can't live your life as though the Hammer of Thor is about to strike you down, and if you maintain your fearful attitude, you could pass it along to your child.

While I can't guarantee that nothing bad will ever happen to you or anyone else, please allow me to remind you that the news media earn their income from magnifying the tragic, the scary and anything that deviates from the norm—whether it be a murder, a car wreck or a five-legged cow.

The time has come for you to turn off your television set, tune out talk radio, and take your child to a park, a playground, a zoo or any family outing. It's a sure way to detoxify yourself from the negativity that has poisoned your outlook. Do it for two weeks, and I can almost guarantee you'll feel better than you do today.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I eat at a self-serve restaurant several times a week. We have gotten to know the owners, the employees and several other regulars we enjoy visiting with. We also enjoy having time alone to sit and chat by ourselves.

A cousin of my husband's has discovered that we frequent this restaurant every Saturday night. He shows up and sits right down at our table, even if we are with other people. We want to let him know this can't continue, but we don't want to be rude—although we feel he is being rude to us. How can we put an end to this?

—INVADED IN GRAND RAPIDS

DEAR INVADED: I have two suggestions. The first is to summon the courage to tell this cousin that you go to that restaurant to relax, be alone together, and sometimes visit privately with people you have met there—and that his sitting down without being invited is making you uncomfortable.

The second is to choose some other restaurants to visit on alternate Saturday nights, so you won't be sitting ducks whenever your husband's cousin is in the mood for company.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Two friends of mine are being married. Their wedding will be a potluck. I have never heard of such a thing, and I'm wondering if this means I shouldn't bring a gift.

On top of bringing food, they have also assigned people to various tasks, such as setting up the hall, doing dishes, serving the cake and such. What does a wedding guest do in a situation like this?

—NOT SURE IF I DO

DEAR NOT SURE: It appears this affair is one in which an unusual amount of effort is expected of the "guests." Unless you are prepared to participate fully—and that includes giving them a small wedding gift—stay home and watch a rerun of "Father of the Bride."

■ ■ ■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



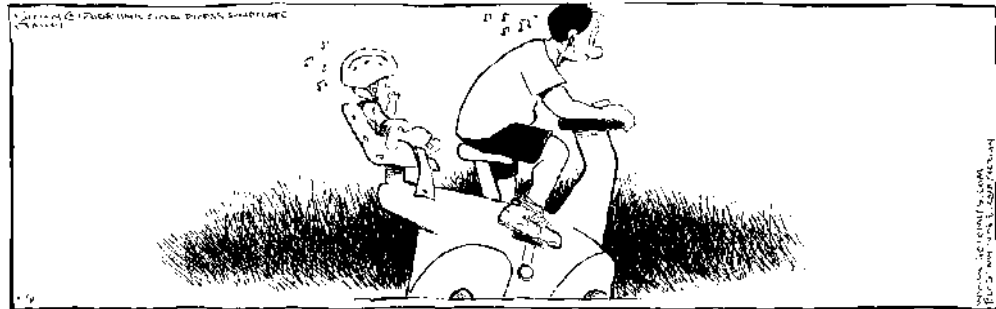
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



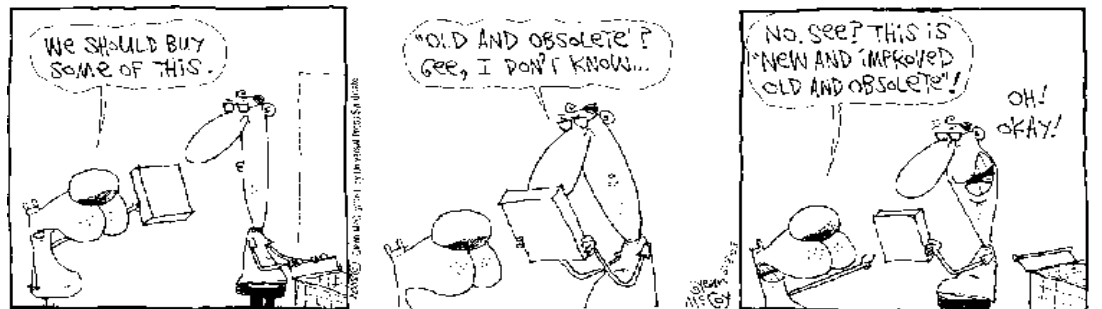
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

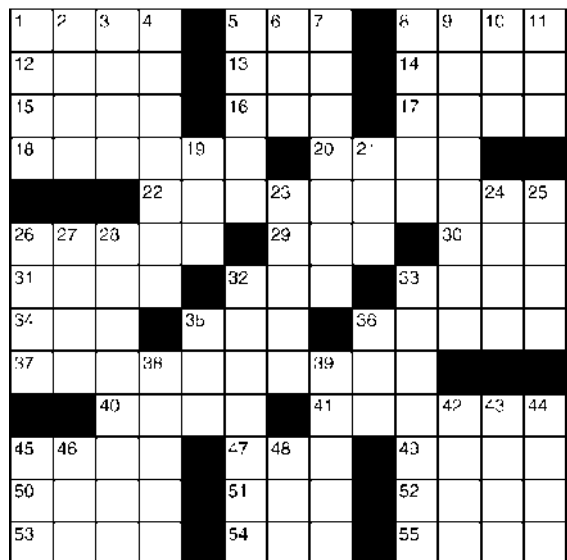
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 United nations
- 5 Illustrations
- 8 Blue hue
- 12 Verdi opera
- 13 Rotation duration
- 14 Senseless?
- 15 Feed the hogs
- 16 Mischievous tyke
- 17 Pinches
- 18 Bar
- 20 Theater-gear company
- 22 1986 Cyndi Lauper hit
- 26 Big name in multi-level marketing
- 29 Moving truck
- 30 Mai — (cocktail)
- 31 "Monopoly" corner
- 32 Solidify
- 33 Hand over —
- 34 Wood-shaping tool
- 35 Tri-umphed
- 36 Recess
- 37 Century 21
- 40 BBQ entree
- 41 Dull indifference
- 45 Give a makeover
- 47 Egos' counter-parts
- 49 Ms. Moore
- 50 Deserve
- 51 Chart format
- 52 Verve
- 53 Purchases
- 54 "Without a doubt"
- 55 Unit of force
- DOWN**
- 1 Low
- 2 Springy melody
- 3 Blood-hound's clue
- 4 Upper-case letter
- 5 Farewell
- 6 Ares
- 7 Not out of the ordinary
- 8 Chronicle
- 9 Capricious
- 10 Ref
- 11 Tummy muscles
- 19 Snoop
- 21 Calendar abbr.
- 23 Occurrence
- 24 Impetuous
- 25 Location
- 26 Open a crack
- 27 Put together
- 28 Harry Potter's skill
- 32 Tabloid-like
- 33 Ad-libbed an answer
- 35 Charlotte's creation
- 36 To the — degree
- 38 New York Public Library duo
- 39 Church areas
- 42 Slithery
- 43 Fed
- 44 Collier's workplace
- 45 CSA soldier
- 46 Water (Fr.)
- 48 Conk out

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 5-8



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only). A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Enrique Iglesias, 33; Darren Hayes, 36; Melissa Gilbert, 44; Don Rickles, 82

Happy Birthday: Make sure that you don't get so wrapped up in everyone else's causes this year that you forget about taking care of your own. You may have energy to burn this year but, if you aren't well-organized, you will lose out. Don't spread yourself too thin. Travel and communication will play a huge role. Your numbers are 8, 10, 23, 32, 38, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put your imagination to good use instead of conjuring up scenarios that are probably not fact. Do something very unique that will surprise the people around you. Don't let anyone take advantage of your talents. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's your turn to take advantage of what others have to offer instead of doing for everyone else. Pull back and wait to see who comes forward to help you out. There is likely to be a change of heart. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Do your own thing and use your own ideas. As soon as you incorporate what someone else is doing, you will lose credibility. You have what it takes to be original. You are more talented than you think, so stop relying on others for input. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You won't be yourself today, so think before you do something you may regret. A new friendship can start if you participate in something that

you believe in or an activity that can enhance your life. You will receive information valuable for making a personal decision. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can expect someone you have an emotional connection with to be blunt. You may not like what you hear but it will help you clear up an issue that has been bothering you. Talks will lead to change. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Give love a chance. You should be planning a trip or taking part in something that will help a relationship you are in or help you find someone new. Open your heart and your home. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your patience will run thin if someone tries to push you to do something. Stay calm and avoid discord of any kind. You will do better with acquaintances than you will with those with whom you have a business or personal relationship. ★★

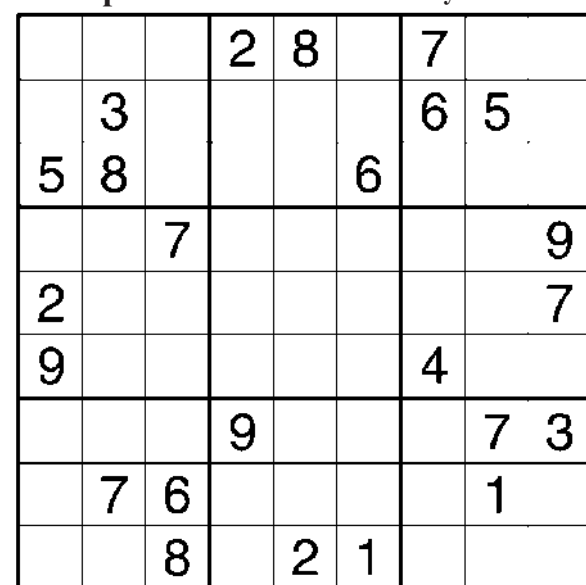
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Look at the past, present and future from a financial standpoint to get an idea how you can budget and raise your earning potential. A change in the way you spend and how you approach work will bring positive results and recognition. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't sweat the little things—do things today that make you feel good about who you are. Nurturing the people you love should be top of your to-do list. Changes may be brewing at home. Don't fight what's necessary. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

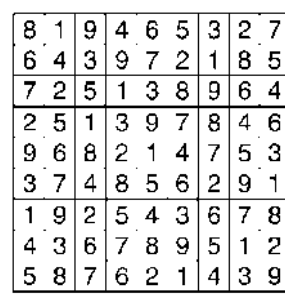


Difficulty Level ★★★

5/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be original if you want to make headway today. Expect to be put to the test, personally and professionally. This will be an excellent chance to show your worth and talents. You can't lose, so don't fear the challenge. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider what you have done in the past that made you happy and get back into it. It's never too late to begin again or to take on something interesting to make your life better. Don't let love drag you down. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You are likely to offend someone who won't back down and can make your day miserable. Stick to work and leave emotional and personal matters until you are better equipped to deal with them. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are industrious and studious. You play hard, learn quickly, are practical but not a pushover. You are a team player.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

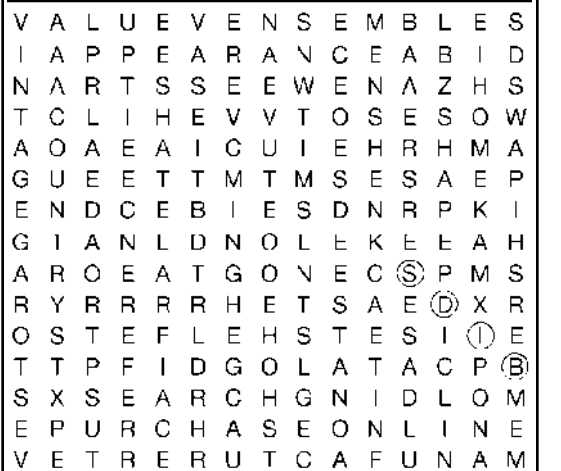
WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CARNIVAL GLOSS COLLECTIONS

Solution: 10 letters



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5/8

Active, Appearance, Arts, Basement, Bids, Catalog, Country, Deal, Edges, Ensemble, Expansive, Expert, Holders, Home, Make, Manufacturer, Market, Membership, Molding, Online, Pieces, Purchase, Reference, Search, Sets, Shape, Sheer, Shelf, Show, Size, Storage, Swap, Trade, Traditional, Tumblers, Value, Variations, Vase, Vintage.

Yesterday's Answer: Ireland

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Bryant named regular season MVP



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Finally, an MVP award for Kobe Bryant. Regarded as the NBA's best player for several years but never its most valuable, Bryant earned the honor at last on Tuesday after leading the Los Angeles Lakers to the best record in the Western Conference. He called the award a blessing and an honor and emphasized that he wants another trophy this year.

"It's Hollywood, it's a movie script. The perfect ending would be for us to hold a championship trophy at the end of it," Bryant said at a news conference attended by his teammates, club officials, his wife and two daughters.

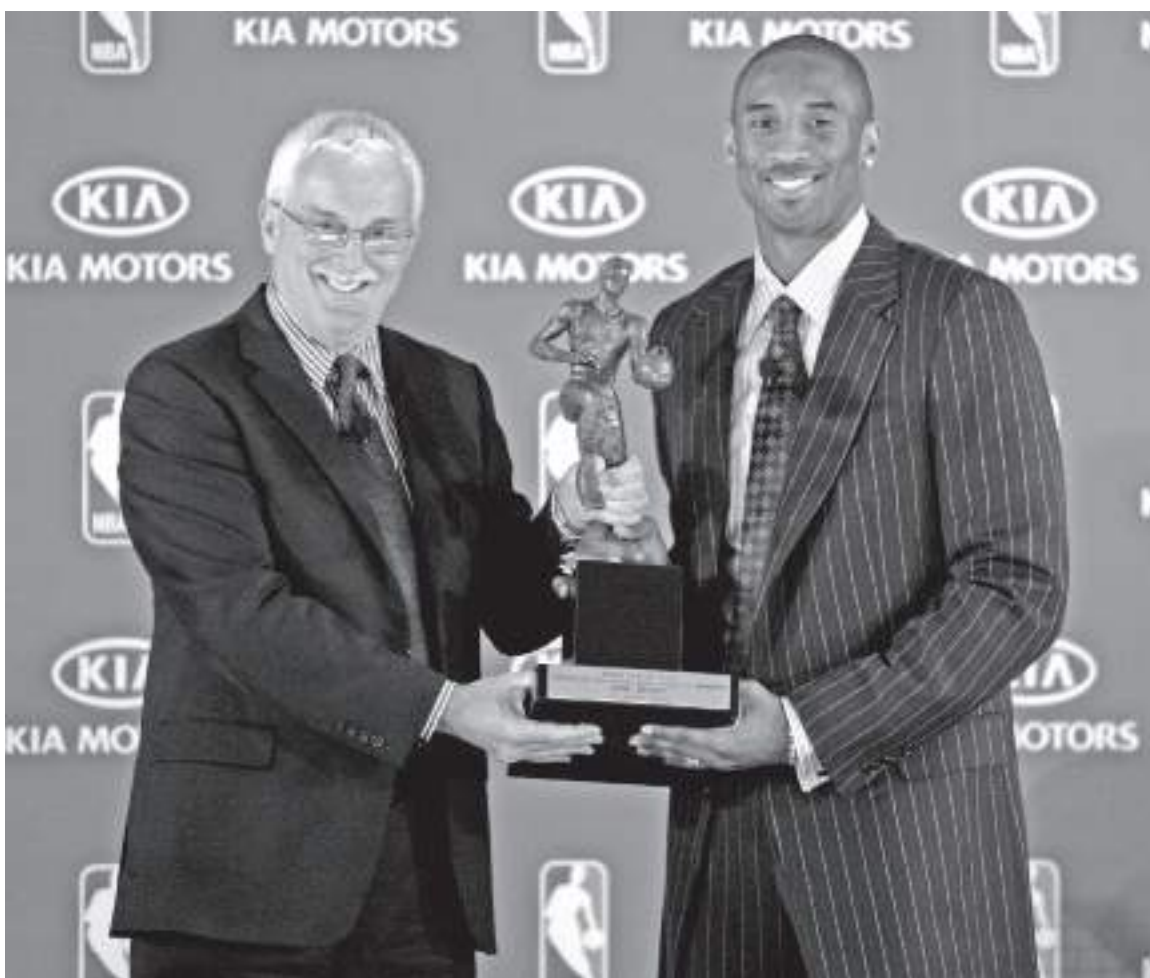
"This is an award I couldn't have won on my own. I can't thank these guys (his teammates) enough. These are my guys, these are my brothers. Let's get ready for tomorrow."

The Lakers try to take a 2-0 lead against Utah in their conference semifinal on Wednesday night. Bryant will receive the MVP trophy from commissioner David Stern before the game.

Bryant entered the season as the league's two-time defending scoring champion. He had finished as high as third in the MVP voting twice—after the 2002-03 season, when he averaged 30 points for the first time, and last year when Dallas' Dirk Nowitzki won.

"I don't know anybody who's ever deserved this trophy more. I don't know anybody who's ever worked as hard to accomplish what he's accomplished," said Lakers coach Phil Jackson, who had five-time MVP Michael Jordan with Chicago and was at the Lakers' helm when Shaquille O'Neal won the award in 2000.

Bryant received 82-first-place



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, right, accepts the National Basketball Association's most valuable player award from Alex Federak, director of public relations with Kia Motors Tuesday, May 6, 2008, in Los Angeles.

votes and 1,105 points in the media vote. He was followed by New Orleans' Chris Paul (28 and 889), Boston's Kevin Garnett (15 and 670) and Cleveland's LeBron James (1 and 438).

"I've said since two, three years ago that Kobe Bryant is the best player in the league," James said before the Cavaliers faced the Celtics in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series. "He's been the best player the last five, six years. I'm glad he won it. His team had a great year, finishing first in the West."

This season there was no denying the Lakers' 6-foot-6 star. Los Angeles rose to the top of the West despite key injuries and following Bryant's trade demands last spring when his team was eliminated in the first round by Phoenix for the second straight year.

Bryant averaged 28.3 points,

6.3 rebounds, 5.4 assists and 1.84 steals while playing all 82 games despite tearing a ligament in his right pinkie in February. He put off surgery until after the Olympics.

The knock on the 29-year-old Bryant had been that he didn't make those around him better—not anymore.

"He's deserving in this particular season with all of the question marks and everything going on coming into the season and the uncertainty," teammate Derek Fisher said. "Not only did he statistically have an MVP type of season, everybody can reasonably say they were better this year because of what he did. He met the so-called criteria, elevating his teammates' games."

Word leaked last Friday night that Bryant had won the award.

Bryant, second in the NBA in scoring behind James, is the first Laker to win the MVP award

since O'Neal. Other Lakers to win since the award was first presented in 1956 were Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Magic Johnson—each times. Abdul-Jabbar also won three with Milwaukee.

"I didn't expect this award would come to me," Bryant said. "I'm surprised. I've played pretty well in other seasons. Our team hasn't been as good. Things just fell into place."

Bryant and O'Neal led the Lakers to three consecutive championships, from 2000-02, and a berth in the finals in 2004. The Lakers hadn't won a playoff series since until sweeping Denver in the first round last month.

Bryant and O'Neal were often at odds during their eight years together. Assistant coach Brian Shaw, who played for the Lakers from 1999-03, has noticed a big difference in Bryant.

"He's a much better teammate now than he was in the cham-

pionship days. That's a credit to his maturation. There were definitely times when he was not a good teammate. No one worked harder than he did. The same is true today," Shaw said.

"In terms of connecting with his teammates off the court, he didn't do that very much. Now, from what I hear, he goes out to dinner with them all the time. Who knows? Maybe he likes these teammates better than us," Shaw added with a laugh.

Bryant has said this was his best regular season and his most enjoyable - very different from his feelings last spring. First, he challenged the Lakers to upgrade their roster, then demanded a trade.

Things quieted down and Bryant said all the right things during training camp until Lakers owner Jerry Buss said he would listen to trade offers. That upset Bryant again, but he promised he would focus on basketball once the season began.

And so he did.

After a 9-8 start, the Lakers put it together. The most obvious upgrades were Fisher and Pau Gasol, acquired Feb. 1 from Memphis. The Lakers already had Andrew Bynum, Jordan Farmar and Sasha Vujacic—all former first-round draft choices—when Bryant had his tirade last spring. All three, especially the 20-year-old Bynum, showed great improvement, but the 7-footer hasn't played since injuring his left knee Jan. 13.

Another talented newcomer, Trevor Ariza, has been sidelined since breaking his right foot Jan. 20. Gasol missed nine games late in the season because of a sprained ankle.

Through it all, led by their MVP, the Lakers kept winning. And now they appear to have as good a chance as any team to win another NBA championship.

NBA says Billups' contested 3-pointer shouldn't have counted

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA admitted Chauncey Billups' 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter of Monday's Detroit-Orlando playoff game should not have counted, but said referees weren't allowed to review instant replay to determine that.

League president Joel Litvin also said the disputed shot, which gave Detroit a 78-76 lead in its 100-93 victory, could not have been replayed after the clock malfunction was discovered.

"After reviewing the video of last night's Pistons-Magic game, we determined that the play that concluded with Chauncey Billups' 3-point field goal at the end of the third quarter took approximately 5.7 seconds," Litvin said in a statement. "Because there were only 5.1 seconds remaining in the quarter when the play began, the shot would not have counted had the clock continued to run."

Billups was bringing the ball up the court for the Pistons when the clock froze at 4.8 seconds because of a problem with the arena's timing system. After he made the shot, the game referees had to estimate how long the play took without the aid of replay because the league's rules don't allow for reviewing a play to determine when the clock started.

The league said the timekeeper who worked the game was from a "neutral" city, standard procedure for all games.

After the game, Orlando coach Stan Van Gundy said the referees indicated it took 4.6 seconds to complete the play. Lead official Steve Javie declined a postgame interview by a pool reporter.

"The referees followed proper procedure in addressing the clock malfunction by estimating the elapsed time and using their judgment as to whether the shot was taken in time," Litvin said. "Under NBA rules, the referees did not have the option of using instant replay and a timing device to determine exactly how much time had elapsed, nor do the rules allow for a replay after a clock malfunction is discovered."

The NBA frequently talks about expanding the instant-replay capabilities for game officials, but this might finally get the league to act.

"The NBA Competition Committee was scheduled to discuss the possible expanded use of instant replay at its meeting at the end of the month and we will raise, for the Committee's consideration, the use of replay in situations like this," Litvin said.

Celtics handcuffs James to edge Cavs in Game 1

BOSTON (AP)—LeBron James couldn't make a basket down the stretch—or at virtually any other time—and the Boston Celtics eked out a 76-72 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night in the opener of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Kevin Garnett scored 28 points to make up for an off night for the rest of Boston's Big Three. James was held to 12 points on 2-for-18 shooting. He missed three drives and a 3-pointer in the final minute. Game 2 is Thursday night in Boston.

James scored Cleveland's first basket and then missed his next 10 shots before driving for a layup that cut Boston's lead to

66-65 with 5:34 left.

He then missed his last six shots, including a potential game-tying finger roll that bounced off the inside of the rim with 8.5 seconds left. James scored just two points in the second half while finishing with nine rebounds, nine assists and 10 turnovers.

Rajon Rondo scored all 15 of his points in the first half, and Kendrick Perkins grabbed 12 rebounds for the Celtics. Paul Pierce drew two charging fouls while guarding James but scored just four points on 2-for-14 shooting, and Ray Allen (0-for-4) didn't score.

But at least they had Garnett. Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 22

points and 12 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who shot 31 percent and couldn't make a basket at the end of the game.

Boston led 68-65 when Daniel Gibson hit a 3-pointer to tie it with 3:18 left.

Ilgauskas made a jumper on a feed from James with 90 seconds left, then Garnett hit a fallaway to make it 70-all. James drove against Pierce and flopped to the court while throwing up a desperation layup that wasn't close.

Sam Cassell made two free throws to tie it 72-72; James missed again, but this time Ilgauskas was there to tip it in and tie the game. Garnett moved across the lane to give Boston back the lead, 74-72 as Cleve-

land called a timeout with 22 seconds left.

James dribbled at the point before finding a lane to the basket, but his shot wouldn't fall and James Posey was fouled after grabbing the rebound. He hit both free throws.

James missed a long but meaningless jumper to punctuate his night.

The Celtics won an NBA-best 66 games in the regular season, and someone will have to beat them at home to derail their hopes of a league-record 17th championship. The Cavaliers managed to stay closed by hitting 22 free throws (to Boston's 14), and by taking advantage of 21 Celtics turnovers.

The Celtics missed their first seven shots—four by Pierce—while Cleveland opened a 5-0 lead. Then Boston scored the next eight, and 16 of 20 points, en route to a 25-15 lead after one quarter.

Garnett scored 12 points in the first quarter and Rondo had eight while Cleveland made just four of 19 shots—a trend that would continue.

Garnett made the first two free throws of the second half—reaching 20 points a minute into the third quarter—but the Cavaliers scored the next 14 points, eight by Ilgauskas. The Celtics went 5:31 without scoring, turning their 45-37 lead into a 51-45 deficit.

Jones' 10th homer leads Braves over Padres



ATLANTA (AP)—Chipper Jones hit

his 10th homer, Jair Jurrjens pitched six strong innings and the Atlanta Braves beat the San Diego Padres 5-3 on Tuesday to improve the National League's best home record.

Mark Kotsay added two hits, including a homer, and drove in two runs. Kotsay also delivered the defensive play of the game in the fifth inning, making an over-the-shoulder catch at the warning track of Tadahito Iguchi's drive.

The Braves have won four straight, all at home, where they improved to 12-4 overall.

Jurrjens (4-2) matched his career high with eight strikeouts and gave up seven hits with a walk and one run in six innings.

San Diego's Chris Young (2-3) threw 98 pitches in only five innings, giving up nine hits and five runs.

Cubs 3, Reds 0

At Cincinnati, Carlos Zambrano had his way with Cincinnati's slumping lineup, allowing only three hits in eight innings, and Ronny Cedeno singled home a pair of runs for Chicago.

The Cubs won for only fourth time in 12 games, a span marked by inconsistency all-around. Zambrano (5-1) has been one of the constants.

The right-hander has won four straight decisions, two of them against a Reds lineup that is often its own worst enemy. Cincinnati got only one runner to second base in the first five innings—Joey Votto, who was picked off by Zambrano.

Aaron Harang (1-5) gave up three runs and seven hits in six innings.

Marlins 3, Brewers 0

At Miami, Scott Olsen allowed two hits in 8 2-3 innings, and Mike Jacobs hit a two-run homer to help Florida beat the slumping Milwaukee.

Ryan Braun doubled in the fourth and Prince Fielder singled with two outs in the ninth for Milwaukee's only hits.

Olsen came within a strike of his first complete game and the Marlins' first since Sept. 16, 2006, but he walked pinch-hitter Joe Dillon to load the bases with two outs in the ninth. Kevin Gregg needed only one pitch to retire Bill Hall on a flyout for his sixth save in seven chances.

Pirates 12, Giants 6

At Pittsburgh, Nate McLouth, dropped a spot in Pittsburgh's order to get more opportunities to produce runs, homered twice while driving in three runs and Zach Duke won for the first time in nearly a year.

Duke (1-2) was winless in six starts this season and 12 games since June 12 before taking a shutout into the seventh inning.

He lost that on Daniel Ortmeier's RBI double, and wound up being charged with three runs on eight hits over 7 1-3 innings—his longest start since he lasted eight innings in a 3-0 win over the Mets on Sept. 17, 2006.

Jonathan Sanchez (2-2) had allowed only six earned runs in 29 2-3 innings while going 2-0 in his previous five starts, but was lifted during a three-run Pirates fifth inning that made it 8-0.

Cardinals 6, Rockies 5

At Denver, Braden Looper pitched into the ninth inning in

the go-ahead two-run double in the eighth inning and Lance Berkman had a career-high five hits to lead Houston past Washington.

Miguel Tejada and Berkman both singled in the eighth before Lee's hit to right field. Austin Kearns dived for the ball, but it bounced just in front of him. Berkman's five hits ties a franchise record for a nine-inning game. He has nine hits in the last two games.

The win was the Astros' fourth straight and gave them a winning record for the first time since April 22.

avoided its first three-game losing streak.

Dodgers 5, Mets 4

At Los Angeles, Blake DeWitt got his first inside-the park homer, just 24 hours after hitting his first major league home run, to give Los Angeles a lead it would not relinquish.

DeWitt slammed a two-run shot off the top of the right-field fence and also had a two-run single among his three hits to help the Dodgers win for the 10th time in 11 games. His inside-the-park homer was the first by the Dodgers since Aug.



Atlanta Braves' Yunel Escobar, left, and Chipper Jones, right, cross home plate as Brian McCann, center, congratulates them after they scored on Jones' two-run home run in the third inning of an MLB baseball game against the San Diego Padres Tuesday, May 6, 2008, in Atlanta.

the longest outing of his career and went 2-for-3 with an RBI, and St. Louis hung on over the slumping Colorado.

Rick Ankiel hit his sixth homer of the season and Ryan Ludwick finished 4-for-4 with two doubles as the Cardinals won for the eighth time in 10 games. Looper (5-1) was two outs away from his first career complete game, but was pulled after back-to-back singles by Todd Helton and pinch-hitter Ryan Spilborghs.

Ryan Franklin picked up his first save of the season.

Astros 6, Nationals 5

At Houston, Carlos Lee had

Diamondbacks 6, Phillies 4

At Phoenix, Stephen Drew hit a three-run homer and Randy Johnson earned his 286th victory as Arizona defeated Philadelphia in a matchup of NL division leaders.

Drew's homer capped a five-run outburst against Adam Eaton (0-1) in the fourth inning.

Johnson (2-1) went six innings, matching his longest outing, and allowed four runs on six hits and struck out six. He also surrendered two homers, walked two and hit a batter. Brandon Lyon pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 12 chances for Arizona, which

9, 2003, when Dave Roberts led off the first inning with one against Matt Clement in a 6-1 win over the Chicago Cubs at Chavez Ravine.

Kuo Kong-chih (2-1) got the victory with 3 2-3 innings of hitless relief. Jonathan Broxton pitched a scoreless eighth and Takashi Saito got three outs in the ninth for his fourth save after giving up a pair of two-out singles.

White Sox 7, Twins 1

At Chicago, Gavin Floyd's no-hit bid lasted until the ninth this time.

Joe Mauer doubled with one out off Chicago's young right-hander for the Minnesota Twins' only hit and Floyd had to settle

for a 7-1 victory Tuesday as the White Sox ended a six-game losing streak.

Floyd (3-1) was taken out to a standing ovation after Mauer's double to left-center and Bobby Jenks came on to get the final two outs.

Floyd, who held Detroit hitless for 7 1-3 innings on April 12 before Edgar Renteria singled, walked three and struck out four. The only run the Twins could muster was aided by an error on Chicago left fielder Carlos Quentin in the fourth inning.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 4

At Toronto, Andy Sonnanstine won his fourth straight start, Eric Hinske homered, and Tampa Bay beat Toronto, snapping the Blue Jay's five-game winning streak.

Sonnanstine (5-1) allowed four runs and 10 hits in six innings, becoming the fastest five-game winner in Tampa Bay's 11-year history. He walked one and struck out two. Dan Wheeler worked the seventh and eighth while Troy Percival pitched the ninth for his seventh save.

The Rays broke a three-game losing streak, while the Blue Jays lost for the first time since April 30 at Boston.

Hinske, a rookie of the year with Toronto in 2002, crushed an A.J. Burnett (3-3) pitch off the centerfield restaurant in the sixth for his seventh homer.

Red Sox 5, Tigers 0

At Detroit, Tim Wakefield only allowed two hits in eight shutout innings to lift Boston over Detroit.

David Ortiz and Manny Ramirez also hit back-to-back homers on successive pitches in Boston's fifth straight win and seventh in the last eight games. Detroit, which was shut out for the fifth time this season, has lost five straight.

Wakefield's knuckler was in classic form as it befuddled the Tigers all night long as he improved his record to 3-1, with his first win since April 20. He had a season-high six strikeouts and didn't walk a batter.

Indians 5, Yankees 3

At New York, pinch-hitter David Dellucci stunned New York with a go-ahead homer off Joba

Chamberlain, and Cleveland rallied for a victory in the opener of a three-game series.

Dellucci's three-run shot with two outs in the eighth inning spoiled a strong start by Andy Pettitte and boosted a Cleveland offense that's been struggling mightily at the plate.

It was only the second home run allowed in 37 career innings by Chamberlain (1-2), the hard-throwing reliever who has been nearly unhittable since reaching the majors last August. Boston's Mike Lowell hit the other one on Sept. 16.

Angels 5, Royals 3

At Kansas City, Missouri, Garret Anderson homered for the second straight game and drove in five runs to lift the Angels over Kansas City.

Anderson, who had a two-run home run Monday night, slammed Brian Bannister's pitch over the right field wall for a three-run shot that tied the score 3-all in the fourth. In the fifth, Anderson's RBI single made it 4-3. Then he victimized Bannister (3-4) with another RBI single in the seventh. He was 3-for-5.

Athletics 4, Orioles 2

At Oakland, California, Justin Duchscherer won his second straight start in his third outing since coming off the disabled list and Oakland beat Baltimore for its third straight victory.

Duchscherer (3-1) allowed two runs and four hits in seven strong innings. Alan Embree pitched a perfect eighth and Santiago Casilla finished for his first save in as many chances.

Rangers 10, Mariners 1

At Seattle, major league RBIs leader Josh Hamilton, Michael Young and David Murphy drove in three runs each to support stingy starter Sidney Ponson in Texas' victory over the sinking Seattle.

Seattle lost for the sixth time in seven games before the smallest crowd in Safeco Field history to move back into a last-place tie in the AL West. Mariners hitters continued their mostly punchless season with just seven harmless hits in seven innings off Ponson (2-0), who worked quickly and at times effortlessly. He struck out two and walked one.

Union expresses concern over lack of offers to Bonds

NEW YORK (AP)—The players' association has expressed concern to the baseball commissioner's office over the lack of offers to Barry Bonds, asking for additional information about the offseason's free-agent market.

The union did not go as far as to file a collusion grievance on behalf of the 43-year-old outfielder, who remains unsigned since the San Francisco Giants decided not to make him an offer last year and he became a free agent.

"We've raised both general

concerns and some player specific concerns," Michael Weiner, the union's general counsel, said Tuesday.

Weiner said the only player the union specifically brought up in its discussions with the commissioner's office was Bonds, who repeatedly has said he wants to play a 23rd major league season.

"I haven't received any offers on Barry since he became a free agent," said Bonds' agent, Jeff Borris.

Management has repeatedly

said there has been no concerted effort against Bonds.

"The union notified us that it was investigating potential collusion regarding Barry Bonds and asked for information, and we told them that there was absolutely no collusion with respect to Barry Bonds or any other free agent," said Dan Halem, MLB senior vice president and general labor counsel. "We are aware of no facts which would support a collusion claim regarding Bonds or any other free agents."

The union's concern over Bonds was first reported by ESPN.com.

A seven-time NL MVP, Bonds broke the career home run record last year, then was indicted in November on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice relating to 2003 grand jury testimony in which he said he never knowingly used illegal performance-enhancing drugs. A trial is unlikely to start before 2009.

"Every year we look internally into whether the free-agent

market operated according to the Basic Agreement. Not every year do we raise concerns," Weiner said. "We have raised concerns with the commissioner's office, but it's still in the investigative phase."

Weiner said there was no timetable for what happens next.

"We have made requests for information. I expect at some point we would sit down with the commissioner's office and make a determination whether to proceed with any grievances," he said.

John Cepeda claims April title

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



John Cepeda earned the April Ace of the Month title when he bested 20 other golfers in last Saturday's Exclusive Golf Club monthly championship at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Cepeda shot a 40 and 39 at the front and back nines to finish with a 79 gross. He had a 12-handicap giving him a 67 net to win by one shot against



EXECUTIVE GOLF CLUB MONTHLY ACE CHAMPIONS, FROM LEFT, YASU IRINAKA (JANUARY), NED NORITA (FEBRUARY), WOO KWI DONG (MARCH), AND JOHN CEPEDA (APRIL) POSE FOR A GROUP PHOTO AFTER SATURDAY'S MONTHLY CHAMPIONSHIP.

the 12-handicapper Roy Kwon, who had an 80 gross but ended up with a 68.

Kwon ended up tied with Luis Cepeda as both of them finished with a net 68 but the latter had a 20-handicap dropping him to third place. The handicap determines the tiebreakers.

John Cepeda now joins monthly champions Yasu Irinaka (January), Ned Norita (February), and Woo Kwi Dong (March).

John Cepeda may have won the April monthly crown but Woo had the last laugh when he

sank a hole-in-one. Woo aced hole No. 6 to earn \$300 for his impressive and rare feat.

Woo, who took up golf eight months ago, thanked the Dandan driving range where he regularly practices his drives.

EGC was established in 2006

and has a total membership of 30 golfers. Last Saturday, 20 participated in the April Ace of the Month.

For more information about EGC, call president David Cepeda at 287-2444 or vice president Ju Kim at 287-0952.

Hocog nabs SGA May Ace

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Carl Hocog nabbed the Saipan Golfers Association May Ace of the Month honors after besting 21 other members in last Sunday's SGA Ace of May tournament at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Hocog, a police officer II at the Department of Public Safety, shot an 8-over par 66 to enjoy a two-shot lead over runner up Art Deleon Guerrero, who shot a final round 68.

He now joins Mariana Fajardo (January), Joe Sablan (February), Ned Norita (March), and Larry I. Deleon Guerrero (April) in the season-ending SGA Club championship in December this year.

Hocog shot a 39 and 41 in the front and back nines giving him an 80 gross and the 14-handicapper finished with a 66. He also had the longest drive in hole No. 4 and finished with four birdies in the entire tournament.

April Ace Larry I. Deleon

Guerrero finished third with a 90 gross. He has a 19 handicap giving him a 71 net.

Steve Balakrishna, who had one birdie, had the longest drive in hole No. 14 and also had the greenies at holes No. 7 and 17. Art Deleon Guerrero and Das Krishnan had the greenies at holes No. 3 and 13.

Rick Kautz had the second most birdies with three while Demapan had two. Balakrishna, Manny Alvarez, Jess Castro, Tony Deleon Guerrero, and Ray San Nicolas had one birdie each.

Other golfers that joined, with their scores in parenthesis, were Vicente Aldan (73); Krishnan (74); Alvarez, Balakrishna, and Demapan (75); Jung Eun Teack, Frances Sablan, and Jess Castro (77); Kautz, John Cruz, Edward Manibusan, and Norbert Torres (78); Matias Chargualaf (80); San Nicolas (81); Tony Camacho and Jose I. Sablan (82); John Takai (83); and Tony Deleon Guerrero (84).

PSL enters championship round



The 2008 Private School League enters its championship phase starting today with two more teams trying to earn the second finals berth in games at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Today's game will have the Grace Christian Academy Eagles going up against defending champion Marianas Baptist Academy Stormz in the 2pm

opening contest.

The loser will earn third place while the winner moves on to face top seed and last year's finalist Mt. Carmel School Knights in Friday's championship scheduled at 4pm.

In the girls division, the GCA Lady Eagles will face the MBA Lady Stormz in the battle for third. The match is scheduled at 4pm today after the boys game between GCA and MBA.

Tomorrow at 2pm, defending

champion and top seed Saipan International School Lady Geckos will battle the MCS Lady Knights in the finals.

The SIS-MCS game in the girls division is a rematch of last year's finals after the Lady Geckos foiled the Lady Knights' title bid, 44-31. The Geckos are also aiming for their third straight title in the annual PSL caging.

In the playoff round, MCS and SIS arranged another title

showdown after beating GCA and MBA in the girls division, while the Knights earned the first finals berth in the boys class after defeating Calvary Christian Academy.

MBA kept its back-to-back titles hopes alive after eliminating SIS last Monday, 50-42.

Last year, MBA foiled the MCS Knights' title bid after scoring a 57-53 upset win. MBA ended the regular season in second place with a 5-4 slate faced a tall order when they met the undefeated Knights in the finals. (Jon Perez)

MAFNAS

From Page 28

scored one run, had a triple, and had three RBIs. He had a sacrifice fly to allow Dane Lizama to reach home in Rock Steady's five-run ninth-inning scoring spree.

Cousins Tony and Roy Celis

combined for 6-for-10 in batting. Tony scored twice in the game while Roy had one run and an RBI single in the fifth.

Martin Pangelinan, who is a CNMI Big League All-Star member who went to the World Series in Easley, South Carolina last year, went 2-for-5 and scored one run with a two-RBI

triple in the ninth inning.

Lizama went 2-for-6 scoring twice and had a triple while Ton Manibusan, who struck out in his first at bat went 2-for-5 with one run scored.4/30

Last May 2, the Chel's Lawn Care D9ers pulled off a 15-12 win over Bridge Capital Kabur.

John Acosta went 2-for-5 con-

necting with a two-RBI double in the second inning. He scored three times in the game and finished with four RBIs.

Pat Alepuyo struck out twice going 1-for-6 but had a two-RBI single in the fourth. Tony Camacho went 4-for-6 with two runs scored, a double, and two RBIs.

Jason Gamboa placed third after beating Alen Cepeda, 6-2, in the consolation match.

The second leg of the tournament will feature Loyola's older students. The games will be on May 10 and 11 when singles matches will be held for adults.

Loyola would also like to thank all parents for the continuous support they give to their kids.

For more information, call Loyola at 285-3135 or email pbloyola@yahoo.com.

PARK

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over Chris Cepeda, Jeron Año, and Grant Rhee in the elimination round to earn the first finals berth. He made it 2-0 against Rhee in the finals cruising to an 8-0 decision.

Rhee was coming off a hard-earned win over Chris Cepeda in the semifinals where he needed a tiebreak to earn the second

championship slot.

In the battle for third place, Año proved he still had some fuel left in his tank when he needed a tiebreak to complete an 8-7 (7-5) decision against Cepeda.

Imaya also coasted to an easy 6-0 win over Gio Song in the girls' 9-and-under division.

In December last year, Park claimed the boys' 13-and-under title after an 8-6 triumph over Kennedy Izuka, while Imaya

scored back-to-back lopsided wins over Carol Lee, 8-1, and Gio Hur, 8-0, to claim the girls' 9-and-under title.

In the boys' 9-and-under division, Carl Dela Cruz won the title after a 6-2 win over Kevin Rhee. Dela Cruz placed fourth in the December tournament losing to Evzen Pabellon, 7-8 (5-7).

It was the second straight runner-up finish for Rhee after he also lost to Elnathan Wong, 2-8, in last December's tournament.

and devoted and don't really make all that much of a difference. They're totally dependent on their players.

You can find a Flip Saunders almost anywhere. And a Byron Scott, who is expected to be named coach of the year. And a Doc Rivers, who looked rather helpless last season, pre-Kevin Garnett.

Other than Phil Jackson, where are all the truly special coaches? Even if you throw in Gregg Popovich, where are the rest? And who's got next?

Donnie Walsh is surely asking himself those questions as he prepares to end the Pat Riley void in New York, once and for all. The new Knicks president must find that one person who can communicate and connect. Those are the two most valuable traits for a coach on this level,

because dealing with egos, both the healthy and the undernourished, is 80 percent of the job.

It's not about teaching, because the players are adults and their habits, good and bad, are fixed. Plus there's no time to teach. A coach has three years, max, to start winning. Or else.

It's about connecting and late-game strategy and getting the respect of players. That sounds easy for anyone who hasn't had to deal with selfish players and immature players and one-dimensional players, or players who just think they know it all and have heard it all. Then it becomes tricky.

The next Pat Riley must be smart and convincing. He must know how to relate. Mark Jackson is all of the above when he's on the microphone. We'll see when he's on the bench.

HUSTLERS

From Page 28

wins over Len's 5 Amigos and Coral Reef Barracudas, while Mr. Wonderful Shooters cruised to a 5-2 triumph over the Wild Bill's Snipers.

The Wild Wild West, Godfa-

ther's Magas, and the Destroyers pulled off consecutive 4-3 decisions against USSP Fotten Palau, USSP Wat-Ever, and Extremists.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES				
MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	22	13	.629	—
Tampa Bay	17	15	.531	3 1/2
New York	17	17	.500	4 1/2
Baltimore	16	17	.485	5
Toronto	16	18	.471	5 1/2
Central Division				
Minnesota	16	15	.516	—
Chicago	15	16	.484	1
Cleveland	15	17	.469	1 1/2
Kansas City	14	18	.438	2 1/2
Detroit	14	20	.412	3 1/2
West Division				
Los Angeles	22	13	.629	—
Oakland	21	14	.600	1
Seattle	14	20	.412	7 1/2
Texas	14	20	.412	7 1/2
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Florida	18	14	.563	—
Philadelphia	19	15	.559	—
Atlanta	16	15	.516	1 1/2
New York	16	15	.516	1 1/2
Washington	14	19	.424	4 1/2
Central Division				
St. Louis	22	12	.647	—
Chicago	19	14	.576	2 1/2
Houston	17	16	.515	4 1/2
Milwaukee	16	16	.500	5
Pittsburgh	13	19	.406	8
West Division				
San Diego	22	11	.667	—
Los Angeles	19	14	.576	3
San Francisco	14	19	.424	8
Colorado	12	21	.364	10
San Diego	12	21	.364	10
Yesterday's Games				
Boston 5, Detroit 0				
Cleveland 5, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 4				
L.A. Angels 5, Kansas City 3				
Chicago White Sox 7, Minnesota 1				
Oakland 4, Baltimore 2				
Texas 10, Seattle 1				
Atlanta 5, San Diego 3				
Pittsburgh 12, San Francisco 6				
Florida 3, Milwaukee 0				
Chicago Cubs 3, Cincinnati 0				
Houston 6, Washington 5				
St. Louis 6, Colorado 5				
Arizona 6, Philadelphia 4				
L.A. Dodgers 5, N.Y. Mets 4				
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
LOCAL SCORES				
SML Standings				
Rock Steady	8	0	1.000	—
Tanapag Falcons	5	2	.714	2 1/2
Korean Dreams	5	3	.625	3
D9ers	5	3	.625	3
Ford Rangers	4	3	.571	3 1/2
Kabur	1	6	.143	6
Tigers	1	6	.143	6
Komoro	1	7	.125	6 1/2

Kids XTEARRA Triathlon

Contributed Photos



Saipan Swim Club head coach Michael Stewart joins the top age group finishers for a group photo. From left, Kento Akimaru, Maxi Braig, Kazumi Otake, and Nuri Gutzwiller-Malakut.



Participants in the 9-12 age group begin the swim leg of last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon.



Andrew Kimball finishes the race behind Maxi Braig in the 9-10 division of last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon.



Nuri Gutzwiller-Malakut finishes ahead of Maxi Braig in last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool grounds.



Coach Mieko Carey tries to be a kid again as she hops on one of the little bikes during last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon.



Cole Chambers prepares to touch the tape as he nears the finish line of last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon.



Kento Akimaru runs toward the finish line to claim first place honors in the boys' 8-and-under division of last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon.



Kazumi Otake crosses the finish line to win the girls' 8-and-under class of last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon.



Steven Goodwin is all smiles as he crosses the finish line of last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon.



Fans and volunteers wait to cheer on the participants at the finish line of last Saturday's Kids XTEARRA Triathlon.



John Cepeda claims April title

John Cepeda earned the April Ace of the Month title when he bested 20 other golfers in last Saturday's Exclusive Golf Club monthly championship at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Bryant named regular season MVP

Finally, an MVP award for Kobe Bryant. Regarded as the NBA's best player for several years but never its most valuable, Bryant earned the honor at last on Tuesday after leading the Lakers to the best record in the Western Conference.



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28 THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mafnas hurls Rock Steady to victory

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER

John Mafnas pitched in relief to help the league leading Rock Steady to a 10-1 win over the Ford Rangers in Monday night's 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League game at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Mafnas relieved starter Ton Palacios, pitching six shutout innings in relief and limiting the usually hard-hitting Rangers to one hit—a Franco Flores single in the bottom of the eighth.

The win was the eighth straight in as many games for the Mel Tenorio-managed Rock Steady giving them a 2 1/2 game lead over the defending champion YCO Corp.-Tanapag Falcons.

Mafnas struck out three batters and walked three more as he limited the Rangers to hit fly outs, grounders, and line drives. The Rangers were coming off a 14-4 thrashing of the Falcons last week and the loss dropped

them to fifth place with a 4-3 slate.

Nicolas San Nicolas closed out for Rock Steady and earned the save despite giving up back-to-back doubles to Pete Tomokane and Robert Bansil. Tomokane doubled against San Nicolas to lead off the ninth.

Bansil then slapped an RBI double to score Tomokane. He was later caught in an 8-5 putout play when he tried to steal third as center fielder Tyrone made the relay throw to third baseman Tony Celis for the first out.

Ben Tagabuel grounded out to Lizama, who fielded it cleanly to Byron Kaipat for the second out and San Nicolas ended the game when he struck out J.J. Laniyo.

Palacios, Mafnas, and San Nicolas held the Rangers to a combined 4-for-30 in batting or a .134 average.

Veteran CNMI national campaigner Manny Sablan led Rock Steady's hit parade going 3-for-5 against his former team. He

See MAFNAS on Page 26



A Rock Steady batter avoids being hit by pitch in this file photo taken in one of their games in the 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

JON PEREZ

Hustlers complete title run

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



The SaipanCell Hustlers could afford to lose their final match in the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League since they enjoy an 11-game lead over closest pursuer Jonny's Destroyers.

But despite the huge lead, the Hustlers still showed their usual fighting form, squeezing out a 4-3 win over the Len's 5 Bad Boyz in last week's final day of competition for the bi-annual billiards league organized by the Saipan Billiards Association.



JON PEREZ

Members of the SaipanCell Hustlers pose for a group photo before playing in one of their games in the Budweiser-SBA 8-Ball League at Godfather's Bar in Garapan.

The Hustlers compiled a total of 82 wins in 105 games to enjoy an 11-game lead over the Destroyers' 71-34 slate. Porky's Extremists and Wild Bills Wild Wild West are tied from third to fourth places with similar 69-36 records.

Porky's Wild Hogs also tied with Coral Reef Shark Attack at fifth to sixth places as both teams ended up with identical 63-42 slates.

All tiebreak matches will be played tomorrow.

The Hustlers made it official last April 22 when it hacked out a convincing 6-1 victory over Coral Reef Shark Attacks to improve its record to 78-20.

Other results of last April 29's final game saw the Krystal Perfect Spotters and Shark Attacks score consecutive 7-0 shutout

See HUSTLERS on Page 26

By SHAUN POWELL

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Pat Riley was a coach who made a difference

They don't make many like him anymore. Well, OK, the well-oiled hair and custom suits remain in vogue. But Pat Riley, as a coach, was more than that. If looking good were enough to turn a team into winners, the Sacramento Kings under Reggie Theus would be staring down Kobe and the Los Angeles Lakers right now in the playoffs.

Only a few coaches in NBA history have actually made a difference. Riley was one. Riley had Magic and Kareem and later Ewing and much later Shaq and D-Wade, but he also knew how to connect with them.

That's the trick he figured out long ago. That's why he's going down as one of the all-time greats. Getting superstars to see the big picture and blend with teammates and deal with enormous expectations is the way to a successful career, and one of those careers ended Monday, if we're to take Riley at his word.

"I am definitely sure I don't want to do this again," said Riley, who handed the coaching reins over to 37-year-old assistant Erik Spoelstra.

In a sense, his departure from his previous job is still being felt. Yes, the New York Knicks, 13 years after Riley left in a huff after a 55-27 season, are still looking for another Pat Riley. They're looking for a coach who can actually make a difference, and to that, you say: Good luck searching the haystack.

Since Riley left for South Beach and a piece of the Miami Heat ownership pie, the Knicks have been mostly unlucky with coaches. The only one who stood out was a Riley protege, Jeff Van

See PAT on Page 26

Park, 2 others victorious in Loyola Tennis

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Chris Park and Sakura Imaya won their second age group titles in last Sunday's May edition of the Loyola Tennis Tournament at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan courts.

Park won the 13-and-under boys' division while Imaya duplicated the feat in the girls' 9-and-under class.

Park scored consecutive wins
See PARK on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tennis coach Peter Loyola, left, joins all of his students who joined the Loyola Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.